

EXHIBIT 11

1

2

ORAL DEPOSITION OF

3

JOE GEREB

4

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

5

6

W A R N I N G !

7 This unedited rough draft of the proceedings is not

8 certified. The rough draft transcript may not be cited

9 or used in any way or at any time to rebut or contradict

10 the certified transcription of the proceedings. There

11 will be discrepancies in this form and the final form,

12 because this form has not been edited, proofread,

13 corrected, finalized, indexed, bound or certified. There

14 will also be a discrepancy in page numbers appearing on

15 the unedited rough draft and the edited, proofread,

16 corrected and certified final.

17 * * * * *

18 THE REPORTER: We are on the record.

19 JOE GEREB,

20 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 E X A M I N A T I O N

22 BY MS. HEBERT:

23 Q Good morning.

24 A Good morning.

25 Q Deputy Gereb -- am I saying your last name

1 correctly?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Because, you know, sometimes it's Gereb or
4 things like that.

5 A It's -- I've heard a lot.

6 Q Okay. Gereb. I'm Christen Hebert. We just
7 met previously. I represent the Plaintiff Alek Schott in
8 this case that we are here today. These are my
9 colleagues you just met, Josh Windham and Daniel Nelson.

10 And today we're joined by the court reporter,
11 Molly. And she's going to try to write down everything
12 that we say today.

13 We also have your Counsel, Charles Frigerio.

14 MS. HEBERT: Charles, am I saying your name
15 correctly?

16 MR. FRIGERIO: Yes.

17 MS. HEBERT: And Hector -- Hector, I'm sorry --

18 MR. SAENZ: Saenz.

19 Q (By Ms. Hebert) -- Saenz, who are here with us
20 today.

21 We're going to kind of waive the usual
22 stipulations. We just talked to Molly about that. So
23 any defects in the deposition notice, you're here today.
24 And you're waiving any objections to Molly's
25 qualifications. She's a good court reporter. She's

1 here, she's going to take the record down.

2 So we'll kind of get started with some

3 preliminaries. What is your full name?

4 A Joe Albert Gereb.

5 Q Joe Albert. Not Joseph?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. And would you mind confirming your rank

8 for me today? I want to make sure that I address you

9 respectfully and correctly.

10 A Just deputy.

11 Q Deputy?

12 A That's it.

13 Q And before we go on into the deposition, I want

14 to go over just like a couple of housekeeping matters.

15 Have you ever been deposed before?

16 A No.

17 Q Okay. So this is your first deposition?

18 A I'm sorry, I want to correct myself. I've gone

19 through traffic ones for crashes.

20 Q Okay. So you've done a deposition before.

21 A Yes. Yes. I'm sorry. It took me a second

22 to --

23 Q No, no, it's fine. So you've testified under

24 oath. You kind of know the general process. Is that

25 fair?

1 A Just show up, answer questions, that's it.

2 Yeah.

3 Q Okay, cool. And you understand that Molly just

4 put you under oath today.

5 A Yes.

6 Q And you understand that that means that you're
7 testifying here in this conference room the same as if
8 you were testifying before a judge in a courtroom?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. And it's important today that Molly is
11 able to capture a clear record. And so that means we
12 need to have clear kind of conversations between each
13 other. And that means giving verbal answers. No
14 "huh-uh" or "uh-huh." We need a "yes" or a "no." And
15 shaking your head obviously is not going to show up on
16 any kind of written transcript.

17 A Yes.

18 Q So I'll need you to make clear answers.

19 And if you don't understand a question that I
20 ask, feel free to ask me to clarify. Either I'll try to
21 rephrase the question or we'll ask Molly to read it back
22 to try to make sure that we can figure out what we're
23 saying.

24 Also, try not to interrupt me when I'm asking
25 you a question. I'll try to finish the whole question.

5

1 And then the same, I will try not to interrupt you before
2 I ask another question.

3 And if you don't know the answer to a question,
4 just say so. Say "I don't know." But if you do know the
5 answer to a question, you are required to answer it. Do

6 you understand?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Okay. Mr. Frigerio, who represents the County
9 and the other Defendants in this case, may state an
10 objection after I ask a question. That does not mean
11 that I've asked a bad question. It does not mean that
12 you can refuse to answer the question. It just means
13 that if we decide to use the question at a later date,
14 Mr. Frigerio can argue to the judge that the question was
15 improper. Do you understand?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. If you'd like to take a break today or
18 have a drink, you can have a drink while sitting here.
19 So don't feel like you have to be a camel. That's fine.
20 Just let me know. I only ask that you finish answering
21 the question before we take a break.

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Is there any reason that you are not able to
24 give your full testimony today, such as you're taking an
25 impairing medicine?

6

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q And we're going to look at some documents
3 today. You saw these lovely boxes over here. And we
4 probably won't look at all of those documents. We have
5 lots of paper. But it is your right to read a document
6 in its entirety and look at that document with

7 Mr. Frigerio. And I don't want to rush you through
8 anything. So if you need more time to look at something,
9 we can take a break and you can fully review it. And
10 just let me know if I'm asking you a question before
11 you're ready. Is that fair?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q And then later today, we are probably going to
14 watch some videos, and I've identified some clips and
15 time stamps of those videos. Because, to be frank,
16 watching all these videos would take a lot of time. But
17 it is your right to say I'd like to take a break and
18 watch the video in its entirety with Mr. Frigerio. Do
19 you understand?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And I just, just to be clear, that I'm not
22 trying to trick you on any of the videos, just it will
23 take -- it would take a long time to watch all of them in
24 their entirety.

25 I'd like to start by letting you look at your

7

1 deposition notice for today.

2 MS. HEBERT: Daniel, will you pull out

3 Exhibit A --

4 MR. NELSON: Yes.

5 MS. HEBERT: -- and mark it as Exhibit 1?

6 MR. NELSON: You want me to just swing around

7 and give it to --

8 MS. HEBERT: Yeah. Let me give that to Deputy

9 Gereb.

10 Q (By Ms. Hebert) This is Exhibit 1, which is
11 your deposition notice for today. Have you seen this
12 notice before?

13 A I don't think I have. I've just been told to
14 show up at locations.

15 Q That's fine. Did you do anything to prepare
16 for today's deposition?

17 A I reviewed video.

18 Q Okay.

19 A My videos.

20 Q So what videos did you review?

21 A My -- my body camera.

22 Q Your body camera from?

23 A From the day of the incident.

24 Q Which would be March 16th, 2022?

25 A Yes.

8

1 Q So you watched your video from your body camera
2 from March 16th, 2022?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And how many videos?

5 A There's two. Two separate ones.

6 Q Okay. So is it fair for me to say that you
7 watched the two videos that are associated with the
8 traffic incident in this case from your body camera?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. Did you review any documents?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. Other than conversations with

13 Mr. Frigerio or your other Counsel, which just to be

14 clear I'm not asking about, did you talk to anybody about

15 your deposition today?

16 A With them? Nothing in detail. No, ma'am. I

17 did talk to obviously my supervisor because he is my

18 supervisor. I haven't talked to Deputy Babb at all.

19 Obviously Deputy Molina, I asked him when he's doing it

20 but we haven't talked in detail any of this.

21 Q Okay. Who is your supervisor right now?

22 A Sergeant Pete Gamboa.

23 Q Okay.

24 A He may go by Pedro. I'm still confused on that

25 part.

9

1 Q Okay. Good to know. I'll ask you about that

2 confusion probably. But what did you guys talk about?

3 A Oh, just when we were showing up and stuff like

4 that. We don't talk about cases until they're settled.

5 Q Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

6 And you didn't talk about the substance at all

7 with Deputy Molina either?

8 A No.

9 Q Did you bring any documents with you today

10 deposition today?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q And today we're going to talk a lot about the
13 Bexar County Sheriff's Office. Can we agree that when I
14 say the Sheriff's Office, I mean the Bexar County
15 Sheriff's Office?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q So we can just shorthand it to Sheriff's
18 Office, rather than every time we talk about the
19 Sheriff's Office saying Bexar County Sheriff's Office?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And if we talk about the Sheriff, can we agree
22 that I'm talking about Sheriff Salazar?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Thank you. So I just would like to get to know
25 you a little bit better before we dig into anything that
10

1 happened in March. Why did you become a police officer?

2 A I needed something to do to raise my kid. I
3 was either going to be -- I was in the military at the
4 time. I was deployed in Iraq my first time.

5 Q Thank you for your service?

6 A Thank you, ma'am. My daughter was born, and I
7 was in the process of trying to get into the Rangers.
8 And I decided, you know, I looked at the research and
9 realized that this is -- that kind of unit is not for a
10 family. At the time, it was 2007, and the height of the
11 Ranger unit was deployed every six months. So they're
12 gone 180 days out of the year. So that's not --

13 Q My ex-boyfriend was a Ranger. And it's a hard
14 life.

15 A Yeah.

16 Q It's a very hard life.

17 A And as I say, I did the research and I said,
18 you know what, let me try my stab at being a police
19 officer. And I tried with SAPD and then ended up getting
20 orders to go back to Iraq. So I didn't really get to
21 really fulfill that part of going through the process of
22 it. And then came back home and ended up back here.
23 So --

24 Q So did you attend academy in the middle of
25 your?

11

1 A No.

2 Q Military service? When did you attend academy?

3 A I joined the Sheriff's Office in 2012 when I
4 was still a part of the Texas National Guard. And when I
5 did their jailer's academy, you know, to go into the
6 jail, then during that time I obtained my peace officer's
7 license through the San Antonio College Law Enforcement
8 Academy. And then in 2014 I tested for patrol. And then
9 I came out in 2016.

10 Q Okay. So let me just summarize to make sure I
11 understood that. You did the Bexar County Academy to
12 become a jailer?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And then you tested into becoming a patrol

15 deputy?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Is that fair?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Is there a separate academy that happens
20 between being a jailer and becoming a patrol deputy?

21 A Yes. I had to obtain my peace officer's
22 license.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Which I did through the San Antonio College Law
25 Enforcement Academy.

12

1 Q Okay. Thank you. And what is your current
2 position with the Sheriff's Office today?

3 A I am a criminal interdiction deputy.

4 Q Okay. And how long have you been a criminal
5 interdiction deputy?

6 A I would say about three-and-a-half years.
7 There was -- I started in 2020, and then I went back to
8 patrol for manning. And then --

9 Q For what was that?

10 A Manning. Like they were short staffed.

11 Q Oh.

12 A Short staffed, I'm sorry. They were short
13 staffed. And then about a year later I came back in
14 2021.

15 Q Okay. So break this down for me. Help me

16 understand that, because I didn't understand manning at
17 first. You became a criminal interdiction deputy in
18 2020?

19 A Yes, that's when the unit started.

20 Q Okay. And how long did you work as a criminal
21 interdiction deputy?

22 A I was there for about almost four months, and
23 then some of our guys had gotten some incidents involving
24 officer involved shootings, which created a staff
25 shortage. So they sent me back to patrol to help with

13

1 the manning, or staffing.

2 And then about in May of 2021 is when I
3 returned back to the unit.

4 Q Okay. So you just took a brief pause to help
5 out with staffing --

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q -- into patrol. What did you do before you
8 became a criminal interdiction deputy? What were your
9 prior positions?

10 A I was regular patrolman.

11 Q Okay. How long were you a regular patrolman?

12 A I would say from about 2016 to 2020. So about
13 four years.

14 Q So about four years?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And let me summarize what I'm understanding you
17 to say. You were a jailer, you became a patrol deputy.

18 Is that fair? And you were that for four years?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q And then what did you do immediately after
21 becoming a patrol deputy?

22 A I was trying to get into our DWI unit. So I
23 was taking courses for traffic and DWI courses. And then
24 during that time, I was trying -- I did apply for our
25 traffic unit that, for DWI enforcement. And I
14

1 unfortunately did not get in, and I was offered this
2 position. So I took this position.

3 Q Okay. Thank you for being transparent about
4 that. I know sometimes when you don't get something you
5 want, it is a hard thing to talk about.

6 What's the difference between the traffic unit
7 then and the criminal interdiction unit?

8 A Traffic just purely enforces traffic
9 enforcement. And the night guys are primarily DWIs,
10 unfortunately, because that's when primarily people are
11 driving while intoxicated. And then during the day it's
12 more the aggressive type of drivers and stuff like that.

13 Q Okay.

14 A But they also specialize in major crashes and
15 fatalities that involve crashes and stuff like that.

16 Q So that's what the traffic unit does?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. Did you ever work in an administrative

19 role?

20 A No, ma'am.

21 Q Okay. I think that that's really helpful.

22 I guess given your law enforcement patrol

23 deputy role -- am I saying that correctly, the law

24 enforcement patrol deputy or is there another way?

25 A You can say patrol time or patrolman or however
15

1 you want to phrase that.

2 Q Okay, thanks. In that role as the patrol

3 deputy, did you do traffic stops as part of your regular

4 duties?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q So even though you weren't part of the traffic

7 unit, I think traffic unit, you still did traffic stops?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q And do all officers who go out in the field

10 perform traffic stops?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. So what types of officers do traffic

13 stops?

14 A Mostly proactive.

15 Q Okay. What do you mean by that? Does that

16 mean that an officer chooses to do traffic stops if he

17 goes out in the field?

18 A Yes, ma'am. It's not required. As a patrolman

19 you're not required to do traffic stops. They train you

20 to do them. But it's not required. You're primarily --

21 your primary duties as a patrolman is to answer calls for
22 service, such as 911 check, disturbances, noise
23 complaint, anything of that nature.

24 Q Okay. So your primary duty as patrolman is to
25 respond for calls for service?

16

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q Did you do traffic stops as a patrolman?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And about how many traffic stops would you do
5 on an average patrol day?

6 A I couldn't tell you. It could be one. It also
7 depends on the call volume. If they're -- if we're
8 slammed with calls for services, I mean, I do a traffic
9 stop. I mean, or if we're short staffed, I'll just sit
10 and wait for calls to pop up. That's usually how that --
11 so I couldn't give you an average.

12 Q I understand. Every day is different. So you
13 were a patrol deputy for four years. If you could give
14 an estimate of how many traffic stops you might have done
15 during that four years?

16 A I couldn't tell you.

17 Q 500?

18 A Again, I couldn't tell you. It's -- I never
19 really kept count like that.

20 Q Yeah, okay. So more than five?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q More than ten?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Probably more than fifty?

25 A I would say so, yes.

17

1 Q Okay. So more than -- at least more than fifty
2 traffic stops in four years?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q That's just helpful context.

5 And it seems like most traffic stops, based on
6 what you just said, are done by folks in the traffic
7 unit. Is that fair?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q They do the outsized portion?

10 A That's their primary duty, yes.

11 Q And other officers who do traffic stops like
12 you probably do less of a percentage? Other patrolmen
13 would be doing less.

14 A Yes.

15 Q Any other units that do traffic stops?

16 A We have a street crimes unit that they're
17 uniformed deputies and they do same thing basically,
18 traffic stops, gang contacting, that nature. They're
19 almost the same as what I do.

20 Q Okay. So we've got the traffic unit, we've got
21 patrolmen who choose to do traffic stops, got the street
22 crimes unit and we've got the criminal interdiction unit.

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Anybody else I'm missing in terms of units who
25 do traffic stops regularly?

18

1 A Yes. We also have a gang unit that's also
2 involved in that as well. They work at night.

3 Q So we've got street crimes, we've got patrol,
4 we've got criminal interdiction, we've got the traffic
5 unit, and we've got the gang unit?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Does every patrol vehicle that does traffic
8 stops have the same equipment?

9 A No, ma'am. I'll elaborate on that for you.
10 Some vehicles are in the process of getting dash cams.
11 Not every vehicle has been outfitted. It's something the
12 County has always been behind with. Technology has
13 always been the Achilles heel part of it. But they're
14 still in the process of doing all that.

15 Q Okay. So some have dash cams, some do not?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. I think it would be helpful maybe for me
18 to like walk through a list of equipment so we can just
19 talk about it.

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q I know that traffic enforcement folks check for
22 speeding. What equipment checks for speeding?

23 A Radars.

24 Q Radars. And does every patrol car have a

25 radar?

19

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q And where does the -- where is the radar on the
3 patrol car?

4 A So the radar, there's one coned in the front
5 and one coned in the back.

6 Q And by cone, you mean --

7 A It's the device that is -- that reads the
8 radar. Not reads the radar, it reads your speed.

9 Q Okay, thank you. So there's something that
10 reads on the front and something that reads on the back?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And how do you make sure that the cone is
13 reading speeds correctly?

14 A We have a tool called a tuning fork, and we do,
15 we tap on the window and it reads a certain speed. So
16 one is read I believe 25 and the other is read at 40.

17 Q Okay. So you somehow, you use pitches, a
18 tuning fork to like figure out?

19 A Yes.

20 Q If it's calibrating correctly?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q And how does an officer record that he checked
23 his equipment?

24 A There, there usually, on a patrolman's base, we
25 record everything through a body camera. Or we have a

1 form that at the time most of us used the form.

2 Q Okay. So it's either on the body cam?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Or it's, there's a particular form that you

5 fill out each time that you calibrate, check your speed

6 equipment?

7 A Not so much calibrate but if we find a

8 deficiency in the vehicle, say the radar is not working

9 properly, unit radar off, write it down, submit it to our

10 I guess our repair shop, fleet maintenance, and the

11 vehicle will be taken for service.

12 Q Okay. So if -- go ahead.

13 A If it's required. If it's needed.

14 Q All right. So let me make sure I understand

15 what you just said. You don't fill out the form unless

16 there's a problem?

17 A No. We still fill it out no matter what.

18 We'll put down deficiency, no deficiency or anything of

19 that nature. If there is a deficiency, we'll mark it

20 down for whatever it is.

21 Q Okay. So you fill out a form whenever you're

22 doing the vehicle check?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Okay. That's helpful. And when do you fill

25 out this form?

1 A It's usually daily. But since the body cameras

2 have come out, usually it's up to the -- on patrol side

3 it's required that the patrolmen around the vehicle
4 inspecting daily on the body camera. That's for the
5 patrol side. Our unit is taking, we have take-home
6 vehicles, and so we, we just -- we don't -- we usually,
7 when we get a new vehicle we'll document everything going
8 on. Then after that it's really on the person himself to
9 do the inspection on themselves. So that's usually on
10 that part.

11 Q Okay.

12 A But if there is a deficiency that comes up with
13 the vehicle, we report it and we get it serviced.

14 Q All right. So let me unpack -- that was a lot
15 of information. Thank you.

16 So patrolmen, they don't get take-home
17 vehicles?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q And when they come on duty on a particular day,
20 they check their vehicle and fill out the form. Is that
21 fair?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And they are required to do that every day?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And for the criminal interdiction unit, you

22

1 guys get patrol cars that you get to take home to and
2 from work?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And it's your responsibility to check out your
5 vehicle and if you notice something's wrong, you fill out
6 a form?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q But you're not -- the criminal interdiction
9 patrol deputies aren't checking their vehicles every day.

10 A We do check them every day. I know for me
11 personally, I check mine every day. I live in an
12 apartment complex, so people ding my doors all the time,
13 so I check, see if there's any deficiencies, see if
14 there's anything I need to report. Whenever I start up
15 my vehicle, I check for, you know, I listen to the
16 engine, listen to the tires, see if the tire's flat,
17 check the radar, check my computer, make sure it's
18 working, make sure my printer is working, my cameras are
19 working. If my cameras are not working I go get that
20 serviced right away.

21 Q Okay. So you have a best practice of you check
22 your vehicle every day you come on duty.

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q But nothing requires you to do that.

25 A That -- not required.

23

1 Q And you don't have to fill out a form that you
2 did that?

3 A No, ma'am.

4 Q On a daily basis, like the patrol folks do.

5 A No. We're just told to be proactive. If you

6 need to take it to service, go get it serviced.

7 Q Okay. Is there any equipment on a patrol
8 vehicle that helps you check to see if a driver's staying
9 in their lane? I know there's like a lot of good
10 technology these days, I have one on my car that like
11 tells me when I'm moving or not in the lane. Is there
12 anything on a will patrol vehicle that can tell you if a
13 driver's staying in their lane?

14 A No, ma'am.

15 Q Does every patrol car have a radio?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. And I've seen patrol cars in the movies
18 with like the little hand held thing and then there's
19 like a spirally cord. Is that part of the radio?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And what's the term for this piece of
22 equipment?

23 A Mike.

24 Q Okay.

25 A Microphone.

24

1 Q It's just the microphone?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And in general, what's the purpose of the radio
4 in the police patrol vehicle?

5 A To transmit information.

6 Q And do you get information back from the radio?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q And is there, is there a log that's created, or
9 are the radio transmissions recorded?

10 A They are recorded. I know through audio, the
11 dispatchers have the ability to pull them. And I believe
12 there's also an incident detail report. I'm not sure if
13 that records anything said but if we type something in it
14 will record it.

15 Q Okay. So let me understand that. There is a
16 report, and we can talk about those later, in a little
17 bit, that will record if you type something in your
18 computer. But for the radio, there's an audio file that
19 records what's said?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q What is a license plate reader?

22 A A license plate reader is a camera that reads
23 your license plate.

24 Q Okay. So it's -- does it automatically read
25 the license plate or do you have to type something in?

25

1 A It automatically reads the license plate.

2 Q Okay. And do patrol vehicles have license
3 plate readers on them?

4 A Not all patrol vehicles. Usually special
5 equipment gets assigned to special units.

6 Q Okay. And what kind of units have license
7 plate readers?

8 A My -- the criminal interdiction unit has them,

9 and then usually -- right now they're the only ones that
10 have them.

11 Q And where on a patrol vehicle is the license
12 plate reader located?

13 A So where we had ours, I know at the time I had
14 mine was on the push bumper, that grill, I guess the
15 grill you might call it, what's called the push bumper
16 and they mount the cameras right there.

17 Q Okay. So if I'm understanding you correctly
18 and bear with me because I don't know where the push
19 bumper is so like the front of the car somewhere?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And the grill of the car I think that's the
22 mesh on the front?

23 A Yes, the push bumper, I call I a grill, some
24 people call it a grill. It's the bars that are in front
25 of the vehicle.

26

1 Q Okay. That's helpful. Thank you. And what
2 kinds of information does an officer get from a license
3 plate reader?

4 A It depends on the type of license plate reader
5 that you have and the accessibility you have to that
6 license plate reader system. I will say that ours, we --
7 technically -- like I say, it really depends. But the
8 ones that we use are commercial. So it will scan, and if
9 there's an alert on a vehicle, it can tell you if it's

10 stolen, it can tell you if it's, if it's being used as a,
11 for smuggling or there's some type of alert with it,
12 amber alerts, clear alerts, if they get put into the
13 system, they'll -- it can -- it has the ability to notify
14 us.

15 Q Okay. There was a lot there, and so I'm going
16 to take us a couple of steps back so that I understand
17 what you just said.

18 You said it depends on the type of license
19 plate reader. Are there different types?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And what are the different types?

22 A You have ones that are assigned to federal
23 databases.

24 Q Okay.

25 A You have some that are just commercial. They

27

1 read -- for a tow truck company, they'll go around and
2 they'll use, for vehicles that are repo and they'll scan
3 them oh look this vehicle is repo. They'll send the tow
4 truck in a little time after and then they're gone, which
5 is what we use.

6 Q So you use?

7 A Commercial.

8 Q License plate reader?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q And what kinds of information does that give
11 you then?

12 A It really, it really depends. Most of them do
13 generally the same thing. It can tell you where a
14 vehicle's been scanned at.

15 Q Okay.

16 A So say if it was on the highway, it will tell
17 you it's on this part of the highway and this block
18 range. Or if the vehicle was scanned at a hotel, motel,
19 apartment, subdivision, it can really just result to
20 that.

21 Q Okay. How does that work. I'm a little
22 confused. So do people like, are there other police all
23 the time going around scanning license plate readers and
24 so then you can see what other police have scanned?

25 A No, ma'am. No, ma'am. It's -- like tow truck
28

1 companies, tow truck companies have people that -- they
2 pay people that have these license plate readers. And if
3 you see a random car like with a Honda with those big
4 rectangle cameras those are license plate readers.
5 You'll see them going through neighborhoods, apartments,
6 hotels, they're repos, looking for their, things like
7 that. That's a commercial reader.

8 Q Okay. And I guess like you're saying
9 commercial reader. Are there like brands then of license
10 plate readers?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And what brand do you guys use?

13 A We use a vigilant.

14 Q Okay. And you were telling me a little bit
15 about alerts that you get. Can you tell me more about
16 that?

17 A Yes, ma'am. The alerts, again, it could be if
18 a vehicle's been flagged for a possible smuggling, a
19 vehicle's been flagged for a murder suspect, alerts, like
20 amber, clear, silver, things of that nature. And then
21 we've also had them that said alert for vehicles that
22 have been used in criminal activity. So -- but that also
23 too goes, depends on the accessibility that we are
24 allowed to have.

25 Q Okay. So let me break that down. How do you,
29

1 how do you read a license plate reader? Like where does
2 the information show up?

3 A So we have a software, the Vigilant software
4 and it will pop up on our screen. If it's an alert. If
5 not, then we just scan them and then if we feel
6 there's -- if we feel there's something going on, we'll
7 look at the vehicle, or we have the, we'll type in the
8 information in the database and see what goes on.

9 Q Okay. So you're sitting in your patrol car.
10 You're, you've got your computer. I'm going to talk
11 about the computer in a second. But somehow the license
12 plate reader feeds information to that computer?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And then alerts will pop up? Am I

15 understanding that correctly?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you read the alerts?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q And do you, do you ever have to like

20 affirmatively point, direct the license plate reader at a

21 vehicle to have it read that or does it just like, is it

22 an automatic thing, the license plate reader's just

23 constantly reading?

24 A They're constantly reading.

25 Q Okay.

30

1 A They're on, they're reading.

2 Q Okay. So you turn, do you have to turn your

3 license plate reader on?

4 A Yes. Once you activate the software, when we

5 turn on the software computer for the day and the cameras

6 turn on, you check your cameras and stuff like that.

7 Q Okay. So you have to affirmatively turn your

8 license plate reader on and then it scans all the license

9 plates it sees?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q And then if something prompts an alert, that

12 pops up on your computer screen?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Am I understanding all of that correctly?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. And then are there logs of these alerts

17 that you can check?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q So it's just a real time alert pops up, you

20 click out of it, you'll never be able to access that

21 alert again?

22 A No. So if an agency like the Bexar County

23 Sheriff's Office says hey this vehicle has been, is a

24 suspect vehicle in a homicide, they'll -- if they, if the

25 investigator or the officer handling that case or the

31

1 case agent handling that incident puts it into the --

2 enters it into the database that this vehicle is a

3 suspect vehicle in a homicide case or whatever criminal

4 activity was involved in, it will pop up. And it has to

5 be -- it has to alert us. And that's up to, again, the

6 individual officer to input that. Like I said, Amber

7 Alert or clear alerts, they've got a vehicle that's, you

8 know, that's possibly involved, associated with that

9 incident, they'll type in that license plate into a, into

10 the database, and which is the software program.

11 Q Sure.

12 A And it gets shared with any people that have

13 access to their program.

14 Q Okay. And so if you wanted to go in and check

15 the record on a particular license plate, let's say you

16 found a car and you're not reading your license -- using

17 your license plate reader, you could type it in and it

18 would pull up all the alerts for that vehicle?

19 A It could pull up the alerts for the vehicle or
20 it could show you where that vehicle's have been.

21 Q Okay. Tell me more about that. How does it
22 show you where the vehicle's been?

23 A It will give you a picture of the vehicle how
24 it's scanned. So if it's on the highway, you'll see it
25 driving down the highway, not moving but ill you'll see

32

1 it's on the highway, parked at a building, so picture of
2 the vehicle parked at a building. And then it will show
3 you a map of the block range where it's located at.

4 Q Okay. So it will show you like each of the
5 hits?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Is that a good descriptor it will show you each
8 hit for where the vehicle has been read?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. That's helpful.

11 How do you know if the information from a
12 license plate reader is correct? I'm sure that maybe
13 there's like misreads sometimes? How do you check it?
14 How do you know?

15 A Can you rephrase that?

16 Q Sure. I guess how do you know that the license
17 plate reader is reading the correct license plate number
18 all the time?

19 A You verify with the vehicle.

20 Q You just visually look?

21 A Yes. So I look down, it says this, and it says
22 it's a Chrysler, or it's reading, I look at a Chrysler,
23 oh look, it's a Chrysler. Then you also -- it's up to us
24 to do that work, you know, to make sure, look and
25 physically verify as well.

33

1 Q Okay. And have you ever seen the license plate
2 reader misread a license plate?

3 A As far as?

4 Q Like, you know, my license plate is LP 2, and
5 it reads it as LP 3?

6 A No, ma'am.

7 Q Okay. And how do you know that the information
8 in the log is correct? If, say like an officer who's in
9 a different entity, input the wrong license plate number,
10 would you necessarily know that?

11 A Again it's up to us to verify and make those --
12 to further investigate that. So if, like you said, if
13 another agency inputs that this vehicle is targeted for
14 something, like it's got something going on with it,
15 the -- it's up to us to call that agency and find out,
16 hey, what's going on, what's up with this vehicle, I'm
17 behind it, do you need it stopped. And it's up to them
18 to verify with us what we're looking at.

19 Q Okay.

20 A So it goes into a whole network of finding out

21 what's going on. And again, it's up to us to say okay,
22 even though we see it here, we still have to visually and
23 physically look and do our homework on it, I guess you
24 could say.

25 Q Okay. That's helpful.

34

1 And how often would you say that you have to
2 call another agency to do your homework?

3 A It, so again that also goes to the
4 accessibility of the reader. But not very often.

5 Q And what do you mean by that then, the
6 accessibility of the reader?

7 A So sometimes their other commercial readers.
8 We have to have access to TCIC/NCIC which is a federal
9 database.

10 Q I'm going to write that down, TCIC/NCIC?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did I get that right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is that?

15 A Basically, whenever we run your license plate,
16 it will give us the information of, hey, the vehicle is a
17 2022 Chrysler 300. Belongs to John Doe. This is the
18 last known address, the registration, if it's got
19 insurance, things of that nature.

20 Q Okay. So that's like the database of like
21 where your -- who owns what car and what license plate

22 and --

23 A Yes.

24 Q -- where it's registered.

25 A Yes, ma'am.

35

1 Q That's helpful. Thank you.

2 And if a car is flagged for smuggling or, you
3 know, an Amber Alert, you wouldn't -- would you know if
4 that's correct other than calling the law enforcement
5 agency?

6 A I would still call the law enforcement agency.

7 Q Okay. I think that's helpful.

8 So that I understand, your alert system, when
9 it pops up, that's automatic. You don't have to do
10 anything affirmatively to get the alert to come up?

11 A There -- you have to be, with the Vigilant
12 readers, you have to be on that agency's alert list.

13 Q Okay. So --

14 A And you also have to -- it also has to be
15 accessed to TCIC/NCIC, which you need a, I believe it's
16 called an MOU, a mode of -- motion of understanding, I
17 believe I'm reading that right. It has to be signed by
18 the D.A.'s office and the State.

19 Q Okay. I'm going to go back a little bit then.

20 How -- I'm trying to figure out how to ask this question.

21 What agencies do you work with?

22 A A lot.

23 Q Okay.

24 A But primarily, local agencies wise, SAPD, Bexar
25 County, Castle Hills, anything that's got a law

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1 enforcement entity to it.

2 Q And do they all have license plate readers as
3 well?

4 A Some do, some don't.

5 Q And so when you're in the license plate reader
6 software, what do you do? Like you're driving down the
7 road. What do you -- I'm not quite understanding how it
8 works. So tell me about what your screen looks like and
9 what you do to interact with the license plate reader.

10 A At the time, when mine were working, it was a
11 screen, four screens, for however many cameras you've
12 got. At that time we had four cameras on the thing,
13 positioned a certain way you want it.

14 Q Four cameras on your patrol vehicle?

15 A Yes. And it would just read. And it just pops
16 up, and you hear it ding, ding, positive read. And so
17 it's up to you to control the volume on all that stuff,
18 setting you want it to work on. If it's getting a good
19 read, it will alert the read, and then you look at it and
20 you go from there.

21 And then if you want to look into a vehicle and
22 you research it, that's up to you to follow that up.

23 Q Okay. Do you see -- you see what agencies
24 have?

25 A No.

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1 Q Signed what vehicles on these things, these
2 alerts?

3 A No, ma'am. It will pop up if there is an
4 alert, and then you can -- you look at TCIC/NCIC and do
5 your homework on it, research it. Find out, you know,
6 what's going on with the car. And then if there is an
7 alert with it, TCIC/NCIC should have someone to contact.

8 Q Okay. So I think that's really helpful. You
9 get an alert that pops up. What do you see on the alert?

10 A Depends on what it is. If it's human
11 smuggling, possible narcotics vehicle, possible, you
12 know -- it just depends, possible Clear Alert vehicle,
13 and then, you know, you do your research on it. If there
14 is a flag for it, you have to call the agency and find
15 out what's going on.

16 Q Okay. And how do vehicles get flagged? So we
17 talked about human trafficking, you mentioned that one.
18 How does a vehicle get flagged for human trafficking?

19 A It has to be input in by the, I guess you could
20 say the case agent, one who's investigating that vehicle,
21 it has to be inputted.

22 Q Okay. So some case agent at a different agency
23 inputs it into the license plate reader as potential
24 smuggling?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

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1 Q Do you Sheriff's Office officers, your
2 Sheriff's Office officers ever input vehicle information
3 into the license plate reader database?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And why would you input a vehicle into the
6 database?

7 A Ser if there's suspicion of some type of
8 activity that this person is involved in. And you just,
9 you know, you forward it around, sharing information.
10 It's a network.

11 Q Yeah. So at what point do you have suspicion
12 that you can enter this person's information into the
13 database? I mean, I guess what I'm trying to ask is, you
14 know, you see someone on the street, you say okay, that
15 person could be a drug dealer in your mind. You have a
16 lot of experience. You see that perp. You say okay,
17 they could be someone who's up to no good. At what
18 point, what information do you have to have to put that
19 person's car into the database?

20 A Reasonable suspicion that they might be
21 involved.

22 Q And so what kind of things create reasonable
23 suspicion for the license plate entry?

24 A Typical reasonable suspicion. Like I said, it
25 all depends on your interaction with that person.

1 Q Okay. Break down for me what a typical
2 reasonable suspicion facts would look like in this

3 example. You can just use an example?

4 A Example-wise, you stop someone, you find out
5 they've been, you know, hey where you been, you know,
6 talk to them, ask them whatever questions you feel like
7 you need to ask them. Some I have talked to have had,
8 they've told me, yeah, I've been locked up federally for
9 smuggling of dope. Okay. Where are you going, you know,
10 what are you doing, what are you doing, you know, find
11 out, you know, their path. And then if they're still
12 doing things that are in the same pattern of a typical
13 smuggler, then you can input it into a system. And then
14 you could, you know, you go from there. And then if they
15 get spotted by another agency and the agency says hey we
16 spotted this vehicle, they'll call you, hey, what did you
17 see, what did you hear with this guy, that's them doing
18 their investigation on their end.

19 Q Okay. That was helpful. If you get an alert
20 from a license plate reader, are you automatically going
21 to stop that vehicle?

22 A Me personally? No.

23 Q Okay. Do you know if other officers stop based
24 purely on a license plate reader note or --

25 MR. FRIGERIO: Objection, form.

40

1 A No.

2 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Do you know if other officers
3 stop based purely on license plate reader alerts?

4 A Not that I know of.

5 Q Okay. If you don't automatically stop someone
6 based on a license plate reader, what exactly do you do?

7 A My homework, my research.

8 Q Right. And so you talked a little bit about
9 that. Who -- like who do you call?

10 A If I need to call someone I make a phone call.
11 If not, I do -- like I go through the databases,
12 TCIC/NCIC, research the vehicle through the software and
13 stuff like that.

14 Q That feels like a lot of tasks to do on the
15 side of the road. How -- how do you manage that?

16 A On the side of the road?

17 Q Yeah.

18 A Same way we do it always, you know, type it, if
19 it feels like something you need to go after, we'll go
20 after it.

21 Q Okay.

22 A And again sometimes, it all depends too is how
23 far are you from the county line, where your jurisdiction
24 ends. If it goes into another jurisdiction, I'm kind of
25 already hitting the brakes but I'll make my phone call,

41

1 hey there might be a vehicle that might have something
2 going on with it.

3 Q Okay.

4 A So --

5 Q That was very helpful. Thank you for being

6 patient with me as I learned about license plate readers.

7 I'd like to learn a little bit more about the body

8 cameras. Does every sheriff's officer who goes out into

9 the field have a body camera?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q And is the body camera running the entire time

12 that you're in the field?

13 A It is on. Right now I have mine off because we

14 are in a court setting. But it is on and it is required

15 to be in a -- if it's not recording a video, it's

16 required to be in what they call buffering.

17 Q Okay.

18 A So that way at the time it's hey I'm going to

19 turn mine on, it's already buffering.

20 Q So it's like a standby mode?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q So, and I'm just going to summarize what I

23 understood you to say. Every patrol officer has -- every

24 officer who goes in the field has a body camera?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

42

1 Q It's on all the time in the standby mode?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q What does an officer have to do to take the

4 body camera out of the standby mode into the active

5 recording mode?

6 A You can activate it with -- ours, just press

7 the circle, the big circle here.

8 Q The big circle in the middle?

9 A Yes. Sometimes they get activated by lights.

10 Once we're doing a traffic stop, everything, it will

11 activate itself.

12 Q Oh you mean the patrol car lights?

13 A Yes.

14 Q I thought you meant lights in general. So let

15 me understand that. You can click the big button in the

16 middle and that turns it into the active mode?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And sometimes the body camera will

19 automatically go into active mode if you turn your patrol

20 car lights on?

21 A It will always go on active mode. If it's on,

22 it will -- as soon as you, as soon as you flip the

23 switch, turn on your lights, emergency lights, it will

24 automatically start recording.

25 Q Okay. That's helpful. And how does the

43

1 footage from that little camera on your chest get saved?

2 A It gets uploaded into the axon, I think it's

3 axon database.

4 Q So does that mean that the camera that you're

5 wearing right now, like records into the cloud?

6 A For lack of a better term, yes.

7 Q Okay. And you don't have to like plug it in

8 and link it and upload the footage?

9 A No. No. Sometimes you do have to up dock it,
10 with the docking station. Sometimes you get so many
11 videos it takes forever to upload. Or there's an update.
12 So when you plug -- when you dock it, it will upload an
13 update or some kind of -- do a software for the camera.

14 Q Okay. How do you know if it's having trouble
15 uploading footage?

16 A It just takes forever to record. Or it will --
17 recently, most recent I've seen is it will say or -- it
18 will give some type offer or message, liker or, try again
19 later. It will -- if it continues on with that, then you
20 report it. So typically that's usually resolved just by
21 docking it on the docking camera and you need to update.

22 Q Okay. So let me break that down and go back a
23 little bit. When it's having trouble uploading the
24 videos to the cloud, there's somewhere on the camera that
25 gets to be an indicator?

44

1 A No. So on your computer, in the on board, the
2 patrol vehicle's on board computer, it has a software
3 where we can -- which is through axon, and we can type in
4 title of the video, we can put down traffic stop,
5 warning, be and then we upload the video through
6 Bluetooth. So this is reading -- it's transporting
7 information via Bluetooth to the computer, which is
8 getting uploaded to the axon database.

9 Q Okay. Thank you. And the Bluetooth reading to

10 the computer, is that automatic?

11 A For the dash, yes, it will automatically do it

12 if you don't get to it in time. For the body camera, no.

13 You have to manually do it yourself.

14 Q Okay. So you have to connect the body camera

15 to the computer?

16 A No. You've just got to.

17 Q Pair it?

18 A Oh, I'm sorry. That -- the question you told

19 me about earlier. No, the body cameras have to be paired

20 to the computer. And then once it's automatically

21 paired, it's up to you to manually go in and say upload.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And click on the upload button. But it does

24 not have to be connected manually to the computer.

25 Q Okay. I think I understand that. So let me,

45

1 let me make sure I'm getting this right. To upload the

2 body camera footage, it doesn't happen automatically. It

3 goes through the computer to upload?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. And you have to click upload for -- on

6 the computer for it to upload?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Okay. And when do you -- when do you upload

9 footage from a body camera through the computer to the

10 cloud?

11 A Me, the way I do it personally, is after every

12 stop. After every incident, after everything, so it's
13 already recording -- or uploading. I'm sorry. And that
14 way it's not taking up memory.

15 Q Okay. And do you know how other officers, what
16 their practice is?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. So your practice is after every stop,
19 you upload?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q Okay. Can you -- when you're -- when you hit
22 the button to record or your lights have turned on your
23 body camera, can you turn it off?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And can you mute it?

46

1 A So the old ones, at the time of this incident,
2 you were able to mute your camera. The new ones, you
3 don't have -- we don't have the ability to.

4 Q Okay. So when did you get the new ones that
5 you cannot mute?

6 A On -- I recently got mine maybe in the fall of
7 last year.

8 Q Fall of 2023?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q But before fall of 2023, you could choose to
11 mute it?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Okay. And can you turn it off now that you
14 have the new camera?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And you could turn off the old camera too?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. How does an officer check that his
19 camera is recording properly?

20 A On -- the lights on the camera will show
21 that -- if it's green, buffering. If it's red, red
22 flashing, it's recording. And our supervisor's also now,
23 and I believe the old ones, they also have the ability to
24 watch it live. So if this is on, as me and you are
25 talking, my supervisor could actually key in live and

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1 watch the interaction going on.

2 Q Okay. Before the fall of 2023, would a
3 supervisor have to like access the records then of the
4 body camera, the footage, to review them at a later date?

5 A Yes, ma'am. They could do that whether it's
6 live or not live.

7 Q Okay. And today it has the live capacity?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Okay. And it seems like you just talked about
10 the green light is if it's in buffering, and the red
11 light means it's recording?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q So if you don't look down, you might not see
14 what status your light is?

15 A Yes, ma'am. But my, there's also a beeping
16 noise. It will let you know, it can be activated or
17 deactivated. If it's deactivated, it will vibrate.

18 Q Okay. So tell me more about that. If you
19 activate your body camera, it makes a beeping noise?

20 A Yes. So every, after, every, I think it's two,
21 two to five minutes, something of that nature, it will --
22 you'll hear a beep beep, you know, that it's still
23 recording. And then also, you know, say typically like
24 how your phone or air pods or whatever you're listening
25 to is going low on battery or something, it will make an
48

1 alert to you as well.

2 Q And what does that sound like?

3 A It will just make the beeping noise.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And it will become more frequent.

6 Q So if it's beeping at you a lot then you know?

7 A Something's going on.

8 Q Running out of battery?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q And if it's beeping, as I understand what you
11 just said, if it's beeping regularly, beep beep, that
12 means my body camera is on?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And so I guess the indication there is if it's
15 not beep beeping for a long period of time, you're like

16 oh, my body camera, something's wrong with it?

17 A It can be. It really depends on the officer.

18 I like to leave mine on, because I can hear it, like it's

19 doing its job.

20 Q Okay. And how often have you seen an error

21 with your body camera?

22 A Most recently with the new ones, because

23 there's been a lot of software, you know, they have their

24 kinks and bugs, just most recent with this one. The old

25 one never had any issues.

49

1 Q Okay. So the new body camera since 2023 has

2 had a couple of issues?

3 A It did -- that's really on the software.

4 Q You got the kinks worked out?

5 A Yes.

6 Q The old one you had never like seen it

7 malfunction?

8 A No, ma'am.

9 Q Okay. We talked a little bit about -- how are

10 we doing? Everybody doing okay?

11 A I'm fine.

12 Q Okay. I know coffee in the morning, sometimes

13 people need breaks. We talked a little bit about dash

14 cameras and how not all of the patrol vehicles have cash

15 cameras at the beginning of the conversation you

16 indicated they're still rolling those out. Is that fair?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What percentage of patrol vehicles would you
19 say had a dash camera right now?

20 A I couldn't tell you. I haven't been on patrol
21 in almost four years.

22 Q Yeah. Do all of the criminal interdiction
23 folks have a patrol or dash camera?

24 A Yes, ma'am. All specialized units have dash
25 cameras.

50

1 Q And by specialized units, do you mean the
2 street crimes unit, the gang unit, the criminal
3 interdiction unit? Anybody else that I'm missing?

4 A The gang, street crimes, traffic, if you're a
5 marked unit or you're an unmarked unit, you're a
6 uniformed deputy, your car is supposed to be outfitted
7 with a camera.

8 Q Okay. That's helpful. Thank you.

9 And do all of the cameras, all the patrol
10 vehicles -- I misspoke there -- do all of the patrol
11 vehicles who have a dash camera have both a front and
12 rear dash camera?

13 A Patrol wise, like I said I couldn't tell you on
14 patrol. Specialized units, yes.

15 Q So they have both. All the specialized units
16 have both a front and rear.

17 A Yes, they are required.

18 Q Okay. Can we agree that I'll shorthand both

19 the front and rear cameras on a patrol vehicle as the

20 dash cam?

21 A I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

22 Q Can I just call the front and rear cameras the

23 dash camera generally? Can we agree to use that term or

24 is there something you would prefer to use?

25 A I would say dash is for front and rear for
51

1 rear.

2 Q Okay. So if I say dash cam, that's specific to

3 the front camera?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And if I want to say rear, we'll specifically

6 say that one?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Do officers ever have like a term that they use

9 to refer to both of them together?

10 A Cameras.

11 Q Cameras. Patrol cameras?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Or patrol car cameras?

14 A Your cameras are on? That's it.

15 Q When they say your cameras are on, are they

16 meaning your body camera too?

17 A Yes, everything.

18 Q So when they ask the general question of all

19 your cameras are on, they may be referring to all three?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q Is a dash camera and the rear camera running
22 the entire time that you're in your patrol vehicles?

23 A No, ma'am. They're on again standby until
24 activated. The rear camera doesn't get activated until
25 you either have something of evidentiary value or you
52

1 have someone in the back seat.

2 Q Okay. So the rear camera then is not on the
3 rear of the vehicle pointing back.

4 A It's in the back seat.

5 Q Okay. So it's in the back seat. So you have
6 your dashboard camera, which is in the front of the
7 vehicle, and your rear camera looks at the, the --

8 A The back seat basically.

9 Q The back seat. So where on the patrol vehicle
10 is the dash cam located?

11 A It's on the windshield by the top by the rear
12 view mirror.

13 Q Okay. So it's somewhere up there?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And when does the dash cam, the dash cam
16 specifically, become activated?

17 A You can either activate it yourself manually or
18 you can, like when you activate your lights, it will
19 automatically turn on.

20 Now with Bexar County, we have our holsters can
21 also activate the, when we draw our firearm, can activate

22 the camera, the body camera and the dash cam, and as long

23 as our tasers.

24 Q Okay. So now there's a new technology that if

25 you take your gun out of your holster, it turns on all

53

1 your cameras?

2 A Yes.

3 Q But otherwise, the dash cam, the front dash

4 cam, turns on if you manually turn it on or the lights

5 come on?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q And can you turn your dash camera off after it

8 automatically turns on?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q And what about the rear camera? You talked a

11 little bit about it but I don't think I understood. You

12 have -- do you have to manually turn on the rear camera

13 into the seat?

14 A Yes, ma'am. It's only, it's only -- it's only

15 activated manually.

16 Q Okay. So when you turn on your lights, the

17 rear camera does not turn on.

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q How does the footage from the dash camera get

20 saved? I think you were talking a little bit about this

21 before but I want to make sure I understood because I was

22 focused on the body camera earlier. Is the saving for

23 the dash cam automatic?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And so --

54

1 A The same way as we do this. If we don't get to
2 it in time, like title it or to label it, it will
3 automatically just upload on its own and you have to go
4 in at a later time and fix it.

5 Q So no requirement for you to intervene to
6 upload the dash cam at all?

7 A No, ma'am.

8 Q Okay. And so I assume the saving and the
9 uploading are basically the same thing in this context?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay. How often generally does an officer have
12 to check to make sure his dash cam is working?

13 A We check it every day.

14 Q Okay. And is there -- is there a record of
15 that check that happens every day?

16 A No, ma'am. Once you turn it on, it will, like
17 I said, same thing, it has lights and it will tell you if
18 it's synced properly with the on board computer and then
19 you can look at the computer and see through a live view
20 and see that it's visually showing.

21 Q Okay. So when you get in your patrol vehicle
22 for the day and you turn on your patrol vehicle, you can
23 see the dash cam view through your computer.

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And tell me more about the lights on the dash

55

1 cam.

2 A It's the same way. I think they're purple and

3 green. I know purple means that it's synced properly, or

4 that it's, you know, it's connected properly to the

5 computer. And then green just says good to go, it's

6 ready to, as soon as -- it's buffering.

7 Q So if both -- if the camera is working

8 correctly, both the purple and green lights should be on?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And if it's not synced, it will just be the

12 green light.

13 Q And if it's not synced, does that mean it's not

14 going to record?

15 A No. It will still record. It will still

16 record. Again, it just has to go in there and look --

17 make sure it's uploaded properly and all that stuff.

18 Q So if the purple light is not on it's not

19 synced to the computer, you'll have to manually do the

20 upload or double check it later?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q To get it to work?

23 A Yes and if it's not there then you've got to

24 take it to get serviced.

25 Q Okay. That's helpful. So if you're not seeing

56

1 the record of whatever you experienced, let's say you
2 turned on your lights and the dash camera is supposed to
3 be recording and you finish whatever you're doing and you
4 see that one of the lights isn't on or the purple light's
5 not on, you're supposed to take it in?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q And where do you mean take it in to?

8 A We take it to our fleet maintenance and we'll
9 have people that work on the cameras come out and they'll
10 have a look at it.

11 Q And has that ever happened to you where you've
12 realized the purple or the green light's not on and you
13 take it to the maintenance folks?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And what happens?

16 A They, they either say the memory was full, they
17 have to upload they'll do a repair sometimes they'll say
18 it needs a new camera. They'll let you know what the
19 fault is.

20 Q And if your camera as not working and you have
21 to go take it to get serviced, presumably that means
22 you're not out doing your job at that point.

23 A A at that point we down the vehicle or we turn
24 the vehicle in to be serviced, we call it downing, and
25 then we'll just double up with another officer.

1 Q Okay. So if there's something wrong with your
2 dash cam or your car for, in general, you take it to the

3 service people and then you'll go out with another

4 deputy?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q That's fair. We talked a little bit about the

7 computer. And it seems like the computer is the source

8 that you used for the license plate reader system, the

9 place where your body camera footage gets synced to and

10 uploads and then the dash camera syncs and gets uploaded

11 to. Is that fair?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q What else does the computer, the laptop in the

14 car do?

15 A It's our access to TCIC/NCIC, it's our, you

16 know, shows that, our access to the CAD, how we can read

17 our calls. It also displays, you know, where everybody's

18 at, where your fellow units are, the map of the County,

19 you know, we can do a report system or ticket writing

20 system. Pretty much it's the brain.

21 Q Okay. You said a couple of things that I don't

22 understand. What is a CAD?

23 A Oh, I'm sorry, the CAD is the computer.

24 Q So the computer itself is called the CAD?

25 A Yes. It's gone through many different names,

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1 but we've always called it the CAD.

2 Q Okay.

3 A I don't know what the CAD means, because that

4 was a term used before I came out. So --

5 Q Okay. So when you're referring to your
6 computer in the patrol vehicle, you say my CAD?

7 A Yes.

8 Q You also mentioned that you can see where
9 others, officers are located?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q So if you decided to go meet up with another
12 officer, you wouldn't have to ask them where they were?

13 A No. So, you know, you still ask them where
14 they're at. Sometimes supervisors, sometimes you don't
15 see your supervisor. Like my supervisor, but that's up
16 to them whether they want to be known or not known.
17 Sometimes you have undercover units, they'll be signed on
18 but you won't know that they're in a certain area.

19 Q Okay. So can you turn off your location
20 tracking then?

21 A Yes, you can. I've never done it. Because I
22 don't know how. And Number two is I don't like messing
23 with that kind of stuff because I don't want it to mess
24 up the computer.

25 Q I understand that. But if an officer knew how
59

1 to turn off their location tracking thing, they could?

2 A They could.

3 Q You talk a little bit about you can write
4 tickets through --

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q -- your CAD. I guess like the time where an
7 officer would flip out his notebook and write out the
8 ticket by hand is probably long gone. So does that mean
9 that you print the tickets out?

10 A Yes. We have a printer that will print the
11 citation or warning.

12 Q Okay. So you have a printer in your vehicle
13 that prints out the citation or the warning, I'm just
14 going to call that generally a piece of paper.

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. And what kinds of searches can you run
17 from your CAD?

18 A Searches as in to --

19 Q Like you pull someone over, you're going to run
20 the checks, what kind of checks do you run?

21 A We're able to do border crossing.

22 Q Border crossing?

23 A Yes. Border crossing, if you have access to
24 the Vigilant database you can run.

25 Q And that's the license plate database?
60

1 A The LPR reader, yes. Again you can run
2 criminal history as far as I run your information,
3 through your driver's license, they can, if you have a
4 local criminal history for us, we will, we'll see it.
5 And then of course that's -- and then of course vehicle
6 information, that's really about it.

7 Q Okay. So what I heard from you is border
8 crossing information -- what I heard from you is from the
9 computer you can run border crossing information, the
10 Vigilant license plate reader records, criminal history,
11 and vehicle history. Did I miss anything?

12 A That's -- oh, yeah, that's about it. Well,
13 again, if you need to research, it does have internet
14 access. So I don't know if that does any help.

15 Q So in addition to the border crossing
16 information, the Vigilant license plate reader
17 information, the criminal history and the vehicle
18 history, you have internet access. Do you do other
19 searches?

20 A Only for checking my email and then -- which is
21 the work email -- and then that's it. I think maps, like
22 if I need a map like hey we're going to this location,
23 can we check this location, things of that nature.

24 Q Okay. So you don't use the internet to --

25 A Not for personal use.

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1 Q I understand that.

2 A Yeah.

3 Q But you don't use the internet to like Google
4 someone that you've stopped?

5 A No, ma'am.

6 Q So in terms of checks, the only things that you
7 do are the border information check, the Vigilant license
8 plate reader check, the criminal history check and the

9 vehicle information check?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. But you have access to the internet if

12 you need it for other things?

13 A Yes, as far as work-related information.

14 Q Okay. And what kinds of things -- you talked

15 about work-related information email via the internet

16 access on your computer. What kind of things are you

17 checking for on email on your CAD computer?

18 A My work email, like say hey, we have, you have

19 to go to class here, other information being disseminated

20 by admin, supervisors sending you emails. We have a

21 daily bulletin, things of that nature. I signed up with

22 a lot of other trading companies, so they'll send me

23 emails that hey there's -- they'll advertise, hey there's

24 trading coming to your area, so I can, if I choose to

25 sign up or I get notified I need to be somewhere, things

62

1 of that -- like that.

2 A lot of times too we'll get court notices, you

3 know, when you show up for court.

4 Q Okay. So there's a lot that can be in there.

5 You talked a little bit about a daily bulletin. Tell me

6 what that looked like.

7 A The daily bulletin you see at work. Like you

8 know, it says hey, this openings are coming open for

9 these positions. This is, you have these trainings are

10 coming available. Hey, this person did a good job,

11 things of that nature.

12 Q So the daily bulletin is not like a daily

13 briefing. It's more a news -- is it fair to say it's

14 more of a news alert for the Sheriff's Office?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And you mentioned that you get emails from your

17 supervisor.

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Could you give me a gist of the range of emails

20 you get from your supervisor?

21 A Did you sign up for this class, are you doing

22 this, could you send me this, could you send me that,

23 what's the information on this or what are you doing with

24 that.

25 Q Okay. So the, what I understood you to say is

63

1 the supervisor might recommend a class or tell you to

2 take a particular class via email; is that correct?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And the supervisor might ask you particular

5 information about something that you're working on?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Is that fair? Will the supervisor tell you to

8 work on certain things?

9 A They can, yes.

10 Q Can you give me an example?

11 A Can you go monitor Highway 35. Can you monitor

12 this area. We're getting a lot of reports of this going

13 on, can you go see what you can find.

14 Q That's all done via email?

15 A It can be via email, he can call it. Just

16 depends on his or her range of how they want to

17 communicate out.

18 Q Okay. Are -- we talked, just to go back a

19 second, we talked a little bit about the searches you do,

20 the border crossing search, the Vigilant reared search,

21 criminal history search and vehicle history search is

22 there a log of all the searches you do?

23 A Yes, incident detail report will record all of

24 that.

25 Q Okay. Incident detail report. So the incident
64

1 detail report will include everything that you've run on

2 a particular person or particular vehicle?

3 A As long as it's associated with the -- I

4 believe it's associated with the TCIC/NCIC system.

5 Q And are there times when that, there would be

6 checks that you do that aren't associated with the

7 TCI/NCI system?

8 A If you run it, so if I run your license plate

9 it's always done through TCIC/NCIC. The only time if I

10 use the Vigilant readers I'm doing research on it. But

11 there's always a time stamp. So it will be at the bottom

12 of the screen, it will tell you something of the nature

13 of last activity, the activity ran on this date at this

14 time.

15 Q Okay. So when you run the various checks, the

16 TCI -- TCIC? TCIC? Am I saying that right?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q TCIC/NCIC, that information you'll get the log

19 of what you ran?

20 A Yes.

21 Q But with the license plate reader, you won't

22 necessarily get the log of what you ran together with

23 that?

24 A No, ma'am. I'm not sure if it's recorded.

25 Q Okay.

65

1 A But I do know that that's the only thing that

2 we can research on that.

3 Q Sure.

4 A As far as that.

5 Q Okay. That's helpful. And is there a log of

6 what you print out? So let's say during a day that

7 you're on duty you print five warnings. Would there be a

8 way to check all things that were printed on a particular

9 day?

10 A Yes, ma'am. That would be through the Brazos

11 system.

12 Q Okay. So you can access the Brazos system to

13 see all the tickets that an officer printed?

14 A Yes, ma'am, you can. And I believe that's also

15 done through the incident detail -- I don't think it's
16 the incident detail report. It's done on the same
17 system. I don't remember what it's called offhand.

18 Q That's okay. We talked a little bit about
19 calls. Is there like a phone in the patrol car that you
20 use to call?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q Do you get a cell phone issued from the
23 Sheriff's Office?

24 A During the time of this incident, I didn't have
25 one.

66

1 Q Okay. So sometimes the Sheriff's Office issues
2 cell phones?

3 A Yes.

4 Q When does the Sheriff's Office issue cell
5 phones?

6 A Typically when you're part of a special unit.

7 Q Okay. So you just mentioned that you didn't
8 have one on March 16th, 2022. How come?

9 A Because I wasn't issued a county cell phone at
10 the time.

11 Q Okay. So did you use your personal cell phone
12 while you were on duty?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And would you call other officers using your
15 personal cell phone while you were on duty then?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q And did you send -- do you send text messages
18 with officers, other officers when you're on duty?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Now that you have a cell phone issued by the
21 Sheriff's Office, do you carry two phones then with you
22 all the time?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q And at the end of a work day, do you have to
25 currently turn in your Bexar County Sheriff's Office

67

1 phone?

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q You take it home?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And from your phone, your Bexar -- your
6 county -- your sheriff's -- from your Sheriff's Office
7 phone now, is there a way that it creates records from
8 that phone?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. And do you send those records to the
11 Sheriff's Office?

12 A No, ma'am. We don't -- we don't turn in
13 records like that. If for whatever reason they need it,
14 they can take the phone, they can research the records if
15 they need it.

16 Q Okay. So if they wanted to search the phone
17 they would take it from you and upload it or whatever?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Okay. And have you ever had your Sheriff's

20 Office phone taken to get records off of it?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q Okay. And I understood that you just said

23 before you got a phone from the Sheriff's Office you used

24 to use your personal phone at work.

25 A Yes, ma'am.

68

1 Q And have you ever been asked for text messages

2 from your personal phone for work-related matters?

3 A No, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. I'm sorry, I'm fighting off a cold.

5 Okay. I think that I'd like to talk about

6 traffic stops that you did in your former role as a law

7 enforcement patrol deputy, before you became part of the

8 criminal interdiction unit. So kind of put your criminal

9 interdiction experience to the side and just talk about,

10 you know, your prior experience doing traffic stops.

11 I know, as I've kind of indicated before, that

12 some of my questions might seem a little basic,

13 especially to someone who is experienced in the field.

14 And so I'm going to ask you to bear with me as I ask you

15 like acronyms and to break things down. But ultimately

16 I'm just trying to better understand what your job looks

17 like.

18 And as I understand from what you said earlier,

19 you were a patrol deputy for four years; is that right?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And when you were in that position, about how
22 much of your time was spent doing traffic stops? Can you

23 give like a rough estimate? 5 percent? 10 percent?

24 More than 50 percent?

25 A I would say probably -- estimated wise, maybe 5
69

1 percent.

2 Q Sure. So like a fraction, tiny fraction?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Of your daily activities were traffic stops?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Okay. And what were the most common traffic
7 offenses that you saw as a patrol deputy?

8 A Speeding, failing to maintain lanes, failure to
9 use turn signals, following too closely, pretty much the
10 same thing I do now.

11 Q Okay.

12 A It could also be -- I'm sorry, also equipment
13 violations, like such as window tint, lights are out, you
14 know, brake lights, things -- things of that nature.

15 Q And those are the traffic violations you saw
16 the most frequently. What would you say you stopped
17 people for most often?

18 A If I saw those.

19 Q Okay.

20 A It would be those.

21 Q And where did most of your stops occur as a
22 patrol deputy?

23 A Where, where I was assigned to. Primarily I
24 was assigned to either -- from Marbach and 1604 all the
25 way down to 281, U.S. Highway 281. And those are three
70

1 different districts. So it just depends on where they
2 had me assigned that day.

3 Q Okay so there were three places you were
4 responsible for patrolling at different times and that's
5 where you made your traffic stops?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Okay. And just so I'm clear, when you were
8 patrol deputy, what was the purpose of making a traffic
9 stop?

10 A If they made a traffic violation, I stopped
11 them.

12 Q Okay. And can you help me understand that a
13 little bit? I think the easiest place to start is just
14 how you decide to actually make a stop.

15 I think I read somewhere that like the average
16 driver, probably myself included, makes a traffic --
17 commits some kind of traffic violation every 20 minutes.
18 And I'm sure you're on the side of the road. You see
19 lots of different traffic violations. How do you decide
20 an offense is worth pulling someone over?

21 A It's up to, really it's up to the discretion

22 of -- for me, discretion.

23 Q Sure.

24 A If I use my discretion, say hey, this person

25 was speeding, I'm going to go do the traffic stop.

71

1 Q Okay. So unpack that for me. Like how do

2 you -- how would you, Deputy Gereb, make the decision

3 that a traffic violation merited making a stop?

4 A Again, discretion. If they're in violation of

5 the Transportation Code, I make a stop based on the

6 Transportation Code and go from there.

7 Q Yeah. So does that mean that every time you

8 saw a traffic violation, if you weren't busy doing

9 something else, you made a stop?

10 A No. Not always.

11 Q Okay. So when you saw a traffic stop -- a

12 traffic violation, when would you choose to make a stop?

13 A Discretionary wise, if I was a patrolman,

14 sometimes it would be if it was just multiple violations

15 and it was at this point like hey I need to, I'm going to

16 go stop this person. They're going to hurt somebody,

17 they're going to hurt themselves, let's go from there,

18 see what's going on.

19 Q So when you were doing the patrol deputy role

20 and you're making traffic stops, you're focused on

21 safety?

22 A Primarily safety, yes.

23 Q And you're making the decision to stop when

24 you're concerned that there's some kind of safety issue?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

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1 Q Is that fair? Can you help me understand what

2 is a, what's a moving violation?

3 A So it could be failing to maintain lanes,

4 you're swerving in your lane, you're going over the lane

5 markers, they're going, you're speeding, you're not using

6 your turn signal, you're making an improper turn, you're

7 going too wide on your turn. As long as the vehicle's in

8 movement, then that's a moving violation.

9 Q So then I guess that means you would

10 characterize things like not having a valid license plate

11 or having like a taillight out as something else?

12 A That would be equipment violation.

13 Q Okay. So if it's something with the car, it's

14 an equipment violation?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And if it's something that you do while

17 physically driving, it's a moving violation?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Is there any other type of violation, am I

20 missing any other category?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q So it's either a moving violation or equipment

23 violation?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q It seems like there's probably a range of

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1 moving violations, and I'm sure you kind of indicated
2 that you see drivers speeding and weaving, committing
3 maybe a series of multiple moving violations at a time,
4 and then there's situations where someone might fail to
5 signal before making a turn. What kinds of offenses
6 would you characterize as minor moving violations?

7 A All violations are considered minor. It's a
8 Class C citation. It's not a -- it's not necessarily an
9 arrestable offense. It's something that can be used
10 discretion as a warning or citation.

11 Q Okay. It also seems like there are moving
12 violations with clear criteria, speed limit is 25 miles
13 per hour, and you're going 40 miles per hour, that is
14 speeding. It also -- but there seems to be violations
15 that are harder to tell, like for instance I think the
16 rule is like you have to signal 100 feet before you
17 change lanes, and if you fail to signal appropriately.
18 How -- how do you evaluate the ones that are failure to
19 signal in enough time?

20 A In that situation, I look at it as okay did
21 they give it, were they already turning and they
22 activated their signal on, were they already in the lane
23 when they activated their signal? What was their action.

24 If they're -- if it appears that there was
25 enough time to make a proper turn and use the signal and

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1 they used the signal properly and they made a proper
2 turn, then that's something, okay, let it go. It's not
3 worth the probable -- there's no probable cause to pull
4 them over.

5 Q Okay. So if you see -- like help me understand
6 that last sentence. If you see a violation, let's say
7 they didn't signal early enough like we were just talking
8 about, why wouldn't there be probable cause if you saw
9 them not -- if you saw a driver who didn't signal, you
10 know, 100 feet before the turn, that seems like it would
11 be a violation.

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q So why wouldn't you have probable cause to pull
14 them over?

15 A I'm sorry, no I meant, like I said, if there
16 was a significant distance. So if they --

17 Q Okay.

18 A If there was a significant distance and they
19 turned their signal on and took the turn, okay, there's
20 no probable cause.

21 Q Okay.

22 A To actually stop them.

23 Q Sure. And how would other factors impact your
24 decision to stop someone? So would time of day, for
25 example, impact your decision to make a traffic stop?

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q Okay. Would weather impact your decision to

3 make a traffic stop?

4 A Yes. Discretionary. If it's pouring rain out
5 and you're driving 100 miles an hour then that would be a
6 reason to stop you because it's a safety issue at that
7 point.

8 Q Sure.

9 A But if it's say weather and you know, you can't
10 really see the road, then, you know, you're kind of
11 sweeping over, then at that point, also stop them for
12 safety, just give them a warning, hey be careful. But if
13 it's just weather-based and, you know, there's nothing
14 really going on, there's nothing, nobody's committing any
15 violations, I'm not going to stop somebody.

16 Q Okay. And we talked just a little bit about
17 time of day and you said that doesn't impact the decision
18 to stop. But I would assume that like at 2:15 a.m., when
19 all the bars close, you might stop people for things that
20 you wouldn't necessarily stop them at noon. Is that
21 fair?

22 A No, ma'am.

23 Q Or am I incorrect? Feel free to like disagree
24 with me.

25 A No, ma'am. When I was assigned to patrol, I

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1 worked the midday part of the day. So either from 2:00
2 or 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 or 11:00 o'clock at night.

3 Q Okay.

4 A And so if it was at high noon or --

5 Q You weren't doing the bar closing shift?

6 A I have done DWIs.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I did -- I volunteered to do the STEP program,
9 which was at a stated granted program.

10 Q Sure.

11 A For traffic. I liked doing DWIs, again I was
12 on the DWI unit so I would go out and volunteer so that
13 way I could do traffic violations.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A But during the day -- and I've worked all times
16 during the day, probably 24 hours around the clock, I've
17 worked every single, probably every single hour. The
18 same violations are the same all the way around. There's
19 no difference.

20 Q Okay. So you see the same violations at every
21 time of day?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Okay. What about other factors in deciding to
24 make a traffic stop for a minor -- for a moving
25 violation, would you say that you would make a traffic

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1 stop of a Mercedes-Benz the same as you would make of a,
2 like jalopy looking pickup truck?

3 A No, ma'am.

4 Q So you wouldn't -- like your traffic
5 enforcement, as a law enforcement patrol deputy, didn't

6 change based on the type of car?

7 A No, ma'am.

8 Q When you were a patrol deputy, you told me that

9 you exercised your discretion to make traffic stops. Is

10 that fair?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And you told me that you were proactive, and

13 only proactive deputies really were out there making

14 traffic stops. Is that fair?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And so if you're, at least when you were a

17 patrol deputy, no one was required to make traffic stops.

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q Okay. And because you were proactive and made

20 traffic stops, did you get recognized for that?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q No one ever said Deputy Gereb, thank you for,

23 you know, devoting that extra 5 percent of your time to

24 making the streets safer?

25 A No, ma'am.

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1 Q Okay. Anybody need a break?

2 A I'm good.

3 Q Okay. Did you -- we talked about the fact that

4 you didn't necessarily get any praise for going out of

5 your way to work harder. Did anybody ever evaluate how

6 you were conducting traffic stops? And here's what I

7 mean by that. Did anyone ever ride along with you and

8 say you're spotting traffic violations correctly?

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. So how did you learn how to spot a

11 traffic violation?

12 A Through -- through FTO, field training officer.

13 Q FTO?

14 A Or as we -- that's the standard term. The

15 Bexar County Sheriff's Office calls it a patrol training

16 officer. PTO or FTO.

17 Q Is that a particular training that you take?

18 A That they took, yes.

19 Q I don't understand. I'm sorry.

20 A So to become a training officer, a recognized

21 training officer, you go through a course.

22 Q Okay.

23 A I have never taken it -- I took it once, but

24 that was in the jail.

25 Q Okay.

79

1 A But I never actually trained anybody on that.

2 But they ride along with them, they show you how to

3 recognize traffic, they show you how to enforce traffic

4 law. There is one week, at the time when I went through

5 the PTO process, that we are, we were required to ride

6 out with the DWI unit. And at that time they showed us

7 how to enforce DWI and traffic law.

8 Q Okay. So let me make sure I understood that.

9 When you were -- before you became a patrol deputy, you
10 did a training with a certified instructor who rode along
11 with you?

12 A Yes. It's not a certified instructor -- oh,
13 for the PTO phase, yes.

14 Q PTO.help me understand what PTO stands for?

15 A Patrol training officer.

16 Q Okay. Patrol training officer?

17 A For the PTO process, yes.

18 Q Okay.

19 A You were assigned to a person for a certain
20 amount of time and then you guys ride out together. And
21 they tell you this is what you're doing with this call.
22 This is -- they train you how to be a patrolman. Then
23 during that time frame, we were assigned one week that we
24 rode out with the traffic unit for doing the DWI process.

25 Q Okay. So when you were getting trained as a
80

1 patrol officer, you did a period of time with the patrol
2 training officer where you rode along?

3 A Yes.

4 Q About how long was that?

5 A 15 weeks.

6 Q Long period of time. Okay. Then you did a
7 single week with the DWI unit you rode along with them?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Am I understanding that correctly?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q And when you rode along with the DWI unit, you
12 were focused on learning about the DWI enforcement
13 process?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q Is that fair? Was there ever a separate
16 process for learning about just traffic violations in
17 general?

18 A You're taught that when you go through the,
19 you're getting your peace officer's license, you are
20 taught through Transportation Code. And then with the
21 Sheriff's, with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, to
22 come out to patrol, you have to go back through a patrol
23 academy, which is, at the time for me was another 15
24 weeks. So we did the 15 weeks of patrol training.

25 Q Uh-huh.

81

1 A Then did another 15 weeks with a patrol
2 training officer.

3 Q Okay. So there's the classroom component for
4 15 weeks.

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Am I understanding that correctly? And then
7 there's the field component with the patrol training
8 officer that you ride along with.

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Is that fair?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. Did you ever make a traffic stop or pull
13 someone over, I guess did you ever pull someone over if
14 you weren't certain there was a traffic violation? Maybe
15 you just wanted to ask them what was going on?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q Okay.

18 A This is me personally, I like multiple
19 violations.

20 Q Yeah.

21 A So if there's -- if I pull you over, there's no
22 doubt that you did commit a traffic violation.

23 Q Okay. So you personally, you're going to pull
24 someone over if there are multiple traffic violations.

25 I'll give you a really good story. When I was
82

1 in high school, the only time I've really been pulled
2 over, I got pulled over, and I was pulled over because my
3 scarf had gotten stuck in the door, and I was driving
4 along and it was flapping in the wind.

5 And I was terrified, right? I was a kid. I
6 was terrified when the police officer pulled me over. I
7 was freaking out, started crying already because I didn't
8 know what was going on. He just wanted to tell me that
9 my scarf was flapping in the door, which was really kind
10 of him.

11 And so that was like an example. He obviously
12 made a stop. There was no -- I guess maybe there's a

13 minor -- that might be an equipment failure, given my

14 flapping scarf. So would that be a traffic violation?

15 A That would be considered assist the public.

16 Q Okay. So that would be assist the public. So

17 if you stop someone looks like their kid is having a melt

18 down in the back seat or their hazards are stuck on or

19 something like that you would classify that as is not a

20 traffic stop?

21 A No. If me personally if I see like hey your

22 gas tank cap is hanging out from your thing, I'll pull up

23 next to you honk the horn like hey your thing is open.

24 Your, you know, or I'll let them know, like hey, you got

25 a flat tire. If they need assistance from that point,

83

1 then I will go from that point.

2 Q Okay.

3 A But I'm not going to pull you -- me personally,

4 I won't pull you over unless I have those multiple

5 violations.

6 Now, if there's -- I'm not going to say I

7 haven't done it where there's single violation but me

8 personally I like multiple.

9 Q Okay. Can we talk a little bit about like

10 after the car is stopped and conducting the rest of the

11 stop? And I want to learn more of like the typical

12 process for when you were a patrol deputy of how you went

13 through things.

14 Let's say that you pulled over a red Toyota and

15 you determined that this red Toyota didn't signal early
16 enough before changing lanes like we were kind of talking
17 about before. You turn on your lights and you pull the
18 Toyota over. And like both cars are stopped safely on
19 the side of the road. What do you do next?

20 A Well, I exit my patrol vehicle then I would
21 take the safest route to approach the vehicle. If
22 there's room on the, like on the sidewalk or a shoulder,
23 then I'll approach them on the passenger's side. And
24 then I'll just, I'll make contact with the -- well, first
25 I'll observe the vehicle, see what's going on, any extra
84

1 movement, any, anything like that. You know, just for
2 safety, make sure they're not trying to grab something
3 that might harm me.

4 Walk up to the vehicle, let them know, hey,
5 Deputy Gereb with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office this
6 is the reason I'm stopping you. Can I get your driver's
7 license and proof of insurance.

8 Q Okay. Before you get out of the vehicle, do
9 you have to do anything with your computer or run
10 anything at that time?

11 A Yes. So what we'll do is we'll put the license
12 plate in or if we get time -- me personally, I rush
13 myself. I will already have run your license plate and
14 then I'll just press the traffic, that I'm doing a
15 traffic stop.

16 Q Okay. So help me unpack that.

17 A So if I've made the decision -- you can run
18 information without initiating a call. So --

19 Q Okay. So you can just run someone's like
20 plate?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Before you say I'm making a stop?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay.

25 A It's -- the license plates are public
85

1 information.

2 Q Okay.

3 A So you can run like Tahoe, my patrol vehicle,
4 you can run my personal vehicle and it's public
5 information.

6 Q Okay.

7 A So if I deem that there's a reason to stop you,
8 then I already have your plate ran and I'll just initiate
9 a call, a call or an officer initiated a call by
10 activating, you know, the option for a traffic stop.

11 Q Okay. So let me make sure I understand this.
12 You have already usually entered the person's license
13 plate number into your system, and then when you are
14 stopped safely on the side of the road, you just hit a
15 button that says activate the traffic stop or make the
16 traffic stop?

17 A Before I stop you, I'll activate my lights, and

18 then I'm activating the traffic stop on the computer

19 after I do that.

20 Q Okay. So the first step is you activate your

21 lights?

22 A Yes.

23 Q The second step is?

24 A I'll activate my, my, the call.

25 Q Okay. So you hit the traffic stop button?

86

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay.

3 A And then I'll pull over. And the reason I like

4 to -- the reason I prefer to do it in that order is

5 because the cameras start rolling.

6 Q Okay. That makes sense to me.

7 And so before -- so backing up a little bit,

8 that means before you get out to approach in the safest

9 manner, you've already run the license plate.

10 A Yes. And the reason I do that is, one, I get

11 the information. Two is that, one, I'm not making the

12 mistake of pulling with the license plate, because

13 sometimes we'll run a plate and if you get one digit off

14 that might say the car is stolen and it's not, it's one

15 digit wrong.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Number two if the car decides they want to

18 evade police in that vehicle then I have that vehicle's

19 information and if it means the criteria for a vehicle
20 pursuit, then we'll go from there. If it doesn't meet
21 the criteria for pursuit, I can still put down that that
22 vehicle evaded from police and I can write up a case
23 against that vehicle.

24 Q Okay. So I understand the pursuit part. Can
25 you back up a little bit about the piece where one digit
87

1 might be off?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q So you're driving, you're trying to input the
4 license plate number in, and I can easily see like you
5 missed the 4 and you meant to hit the 5.

6 A Yes. Or you can see like an 8 instead of a B.

7 Q Okay.

8 A Or a W might be an N or an M.

9 Q Okay.

10 A So it could be similar letters. Like K looks
11 like an X in the State of Texas.

12 Q I can see that.

13 A So it's -- so it could be the misreading of a
14 license plate.

15 Q Okay.

16 A So I like to make sure I'm pulling over the
17 right vehicle. Because again if that vehicle takes off,
18 does that, then I have information on the vehicle
19 already.

20 Q So when you're entering it you double check to

21 make sure this license plate inches what I've just input?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And then you have it all set up so that by the

24 time you turn on your lights and you hit the main traffic

25 stop everything's kind of pre-going?

88

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q And then you get out?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Is that fair? Well actually, before you get

5 out, do you tell anybody that you made a traffic stop?

6 A No, ma'am. So the -- the -- when we initiate a

7 call, whether it's any type of officer initiated

8 activity, it will automatically go to dispatch. And

9 dispatch is to identify that, hey, so-and-so, I see

10 you're on a traffic stop. And then that's it. Then

11 because traffic stops are officer initiated, there is a

12 certain amount of time that we have to let them know that

13 we are okay. So we can either do it by the radio or

14 there's a button in there that we can press says secure

15 let's them know hey this guy is okay, and we don't have

16 to alert everybody and their mom to try to come out and

17 save them.

18 Q Okay. So you don't, if you don't like let

19 everybody know that you're okay, it's just silent, they

20 might come looking for you?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And they'll send out an alert.

24 Q Okay. It will?

25 A Yes.

89

1 Q How long do you have before it sends out an
2 alert?

3 A Initially, I believe it's two or three minutes.

4 Q Okay.

5 A They'll say, hey, you know, I am -- I'm secure.

6 Or if they haven't done that, they'll call your call sign

7 and they'll say are you secure? If you haven't

8 responded, they'll call it again, are you secure? After

9 the third time, if you have not let them know that you're

10 okay or you haven't secured yourself on the computer,

11 they will tone -- do what we call tone out. They'll let

12 everybody know, like hey, he might be in trouble, you

13 need to get over there.

14 Q Okay. That's really helpful.

15 So generally, you're required to let everybody

16 know within a certain time that you're secure.

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Once the driver handed you, you came over,

19 walked over in a safe manner, you asked the driver for

20 the license?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Is the next step is that fair?

23 A No we go up, identify ourselves.

24 Q Okay.

25 A Hey I'm so-and-so with the Bexar County
90

1 Sheriff's Office. The reason I'm stopping you today is,

2 for speeding or whatever the offenses are. Can I get

3 your license and proof of insurance.

4 Q Okay. So you, and you get both of those.

5 After the driver hands those things over to

6 you, hands over their license and their proof of

7 insurance, about how long on average would it take you to

8 finish the rest of the stop?

9 A It really depends on the first interaction.

10 Q Okay.

11 A For me it does. If I see something, behavior

12 traits or --

13 Q Sure?

14 A Or I feel like there's some type of activity,

15 criminal activity going on, then I'll extend from there.

16 Q Okay. And so assuming that like there's

17 nothing suspicious, nothing raises your spidey sense,

18 nothing untoward happens, on average how long would a

19 like generic traffic stop take?

20 A For me, 10 to 15 minutes.

21 Q 10 to 15 minutes. Okay. And how would you

22 decide whether to give a warning or an official ticket?

23 What do you call an official ticket?

24 A Citation.

25 Q Okay. So how do you decide to give a warning

91

1 or citation?

2 A Again, it's discretion.

3 Q Okay.

4 A If I have multiple offenses and your,

5 everything's just not good with your vehicle, or good

6 with your, you don't have a driver's license, things of

7 that nature, I'll use my discretion to say, okay, I'm

8 going to give you a citation for this, and which is what

9 you're receiving a citation for.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And I go from there.

12 Q And when, when do you usually make the decision

13 whether to give out a warning or a citation?

14 A Usually when I get back to my patrol vehicle.

15 Q Okay. So when you return to the patrol

16 vehicle, maybe based on the interaction of the driver you

17 make a decision on what they're going to get?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Is that fair? Okay. And what percentage of

20 the time would you say you give someone a warning?

21 A I would say primarily I give more warnings than

22 I do citations.

23 Q Okay. So more than 50 percent warnings? More

24 than 90 percent warnings?

25 A I try to do -- I try to do I guess say 40/60.

92

1 Q Okay. So 40 percent?

2 A Citations.

3 Q Citations, 60 percent warnings?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q Okay. Once the driver hands over their license
6 to you, about how -- about how long does it take you to
7 check the license and run all the checks that you need to
8 with the insurance and the license?

9 A Probably a couple minutes.

10 Q So you said the whole stop takes you 10 to 15,
11 probably somewhere around 10?

12 A Yeah. So with Texas driver's licenses, or IDs,
13 it will come back if they've ever been given a citation
14 before, when it was, if there are license was suspended
15 or invalid. It will show us when it was and when it's
16 due to renew or be reinstated.

17 Q Okay. So it sounds like you just type in the
18 driver's license number into your CAD and the like
19 information on the license comes back?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And is that pretty quick?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q About how long would that take?

24 A I would say 5 to 10 seconds.

25 Q Okay. So it's not like a, oh, the computer is

1 loading?

2 A Sometimes it could be if there's an issue, you

3 know, a bigger issue, like if there's internet issues or
4 network issues, then it will take, sometimes it will take
5 a little longer. But for the most part, no, it's usually
6 5 to 10 seconds.

7 Q And when you say it takes a little longer, like
8 maybe one minute or two versus like a couple seconds. Is
9 that fair?

10 A It could be a minute or two. It just depends
11 on if there's a, what they call CAD issues, there's a
12 service issue.

13 Q Okay.

14 A The network's being uploaded or something's
15 going on with, the network itself. Not anything in
16 particular we're doing, just something like a bigger,
17 broader issue.

18 Q Like the AT&T outage we just had?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q So if there was some kind of computer issue,
21 network issue, how would that be recorded? Would that be
22 on, somewhere on the system or it would just be like it
23 took 10 minutes for the computer to load?

24 A It will give you a time stamp.

25 Q Okay.

94

1 A When you get your return.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Or when you, I believe it's when you researched

4 it and when you got your return. And then again, if

5 there's no -- if we're having issues with the network

6 itself.

7 Q Sure.

8 A Just write out your warning or citation, print

9 it out and you can hand it back to them.

10 Q Okay. So walk me through this a little bit.

11 And we're going to take a couple steps back. You, you

12 know, ran the check on the license plate. You turned on

13 your lights. You had them make the stop. You checked to

14 make sure everything's safe. You indicate that you're

15 secure.

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q You get out of the patrol vehicle. You walk

18 around to either the driver's side or the passenger's

19 side, depending on which one's safer. Is that fair?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q The next step is you identify yourself. Is

22 that correct?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q And then you ask for their information?

25 A Well, we notify them the reasons for the stop.

95

1 Q Okay. Thanks. So you identify yourself, you

2 notify them for the reason for the stop and then?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q You ask for their information. Is that all

5 fair?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q And then you took the driver's license and
8 insurance information back to your patrol vehicle?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q To run the information. Is that fair?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And then you decide whether to give a warning
13 or a citation?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And then what do you do next?

16 A I walk back to the vehicle and I'll return the
17 information. If they get a citation, I'll explain to
18 them what it is. If I can, I'll circle the information,
19 where they need to go to court, when the Court date is,
20 how to contact the Court, which is all listed on our
21 citations, and what times, phone numbers, anything of
22 that nature.

23 Q Okay. And after you've kind of gone over the,
24 either the warning or the citation with the driver, what
25 happens next?

96

1 A If there's -- once I've handed all that back, I
2 tell them, you know, drive safe, have a good day.

3 Q Okay. And when you were a patrol deputy, did
4 you have to do anything else to end the stop?

5 A We typically put in, well, whatever our actions
6 were on the, they get what's called a key card, basically

7 acknowledges that you're on a call. And you'll put down,
8 you know, what we did, a citation or warning, body camera
9 available, and then we'll clear -- we'll do what they
10 call clearing out the call and then we'll go to --
11 there's a button that says, I want to say it's primary --
12 primary. We'll click it and we'll put down, click the
13 button that says citation, and -- or what we'll do it
14 will give us an option of citation or warning issued and
15 whatever we chose to do, that will be it for the call.

16 Q Okay. So let me make sure I understood that.
17 So after you say have a nice day, you let them drive off?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Is that fair? And then you go back to your
20 vehicle?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Then you do a bunch of clean up items and
23 follow up items to end the stop. Is that fair?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And you mentioned key card notes?

97

1 A Yes.

2 Q Can you explain to me what those are?

3 A Just what you did. So it could be.

4 Q Type in your computer, here's what I just did?

5 A Yeah. So when we clear out a call we'll put
6 down DAR, daily activity report. OIA for officer
7 initiated activity. Traffic stop, warning or citation,
8 whatever we put. And then I'll go to -- I'll press enter

9 and then I'll put down to go to the next line, I put BWC,
10 which is body worn camera available.

11 Q Okay.

12 A And then clear it out.

13 Q What do you mean by clear it out?

14 A Close out the call.ment I think it says primary
15 available and then we'll go.

16 Q So like the unit is now available?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. I get it. That was super helpful. So
19 to close out the call you just basically turn your, your
20 taxicab light back on I'm available?

21 A Yes.

22 Q For another call. Okay. When you were making
23 stops as a patrol deputy, did you ever ask the driver to
24 step out of the vehicle?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

98

1 Q And what would prompt you to ask a driver to
2 step out of the vehicle?

3 A Based on if I, if I smelled any kind of,
4 anything going on, like plain view, or if I smelled like
5 say marijuana in the vehicle. And then I'd ask them
6 to -- if I observed their behavior and they appear to be
7 like extremely nervous, depending on what the behavior
8 is, if they've been drinking, you know, I'll have them
9 get out of the vehicle. If they didn't have a driver's

10 license, I'll have them come to the rear of the vehicle

11 and we'll address it from there.

12 Q Okay. And what would you -- you see something

13 in plain view, you see marijuana, you smell marijuana,

14 you see like their behavior as extremely nervous or you

15 can tell alcohol if they've been drinking or they didn't

16 have a driver's license, those are the examples you gave

17 me and I'm sure there may be more. What do you do next?

18 Where would you have the driver step out to?

19 A So at times, when -- typically, I would have

20 them stand between their vehicle and my patrol vehicle.

21 If they were next to the sidewalk, I would stand on the

22 sidewalk. When I was working with Deputy Babb, we would

23 write interviews. Sometimes we would have them sit

24 inside the vehicle.

25 Q Okay. So did you work, you just mentioned, we

99

1 were talking about your patrol deputy experience?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q Did you work with Deputy Babb when you were at

4 patrol deputy?

5 A No, ma'am. He worked on the east side. I

6 worked the west side.

7 Q Okay. So you didn't work with Deputy Babb when

8 you were doing patrol work.

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. So focusing on your --

11 A Patrol days.

12 Q -- patrol work --

13 A Okay.

14 Q Yeah, your patrol days --

15 THE REPORTER: Okay. Could y'all slow down?

16 And you're kind of talking over each other.

17 THE WITNESS: Oh, I apologize.

18 MS. HEBERT: Thank you, Molly. Sorry. I

19 apologize.

20 Q (By Ms. Hebert) I know this is not like
21 necessarily a natural conversation, because Molly has to
22 record everything. So my apologies. I also tend to
23 interrupt people once I understand what they're trying to
24 say. So my apologies.

25 We were talking about when you ask people to
100

1 get out of their vehicle or you told people to get out of
2 their vehicle. As a patrol deputy, when you told people
3 to get out of their vehicle, you just indicated that you
4 had them stand behind the patrol car or on the sidewalk.
5 Is that fair?

6 A No. Behind their vehicle, so there's an area
7 between.

8 Q Oh, behind their vehicle and between the
9 patrol --

10 A Yes. Or if I can have them stand safely on the
11 side of the road or on the sidewalk, that's what I would
12 do.

13 Q Okay. When you were a patrol deputy, how often

14 would you have someone come sit in your patrol car?

15 A Never.

16 Q Why is that?

17 A I had never done it before.

18 Q Okay.

19 A I wasn't -- I wasn't versed in how that works.

20 Q Sure. And when you were a patrol deputy, did

21 you ever search a car?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And what would cause you to search a car?

24 A Reasonable suspicion.

25 Q Okay. Unpack that for me. What do you mean by

101

1 reasonable suspicion?

2 A It could be the odor of marijuana, it could be

3 someone's -- I'm sorry, reasonable suspicion, if I had --

4 if I've been proactive about it, if I had some type of

5 reasonable suspicion, or they give you consent.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Or inventorying the vehicle.

8 Q Okay. So the three reasons you would search a

9 vehicle, if you got consent, there is a reasonable

10 suspicion of a crime?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And then the last one you said inventory a

13 vehicle?

14 A Inventory search of a vehicle, yes.

15 Q Okay. So let's talk about consent. When would
16 you ask for consent to search a vehicle?

17 A I would ask for consent when I had reasonable
18 suspicion this something was going on.

19 Q Okay.

20 A And usually, if I didn't feel like something
21 was going on then I didn't search the vehicle. I didn't
22 bother asking. And I'm the same way about if I have
23 somebody step out of the vehicle.

24 Q All right. Help me understand what you mean
25 about the same way about stepping someone out of the
102

1 vehicle.

2 A So if, like I said, well let me go back here.
3 If you don't have a driver's license, I'm going to have
4 you step out anyway. That's because you are technically
5 not supposed to be behind the wheel. But if it's just a,
6 your, everything's checking out, everything looks okay,
7 then I'm just going to go ahead and get you on your way.

8 But if I have that reasonable suspicion that
9 something's -- that the driver is up to something, or if
10 he has other occupants, if there's something else going
11 on in the vehicle, then I'm going to go from there.

12 Q Okay. When you say go from there, what do you
13 mean, what would you do next?

14 A I'll have the driver step out, walk to a safe
15 area, and then we'll go -- we'll have our interaction

16 there, you know, interview them on the side of the road.

17 Q Okay. And what would that interview look like?

18 A Where are you going, where are you coming from,
19 get to the side of the -- get their story, you know, hey,
20 I'm going to my friend's house over here. Okay. Where
21 are you going to after that? Oh, going to this. And
22 then where are you coming from now? Who are the people,
23 if they have multiple passengers in the vehicle, or a
24 passenger in the vehicle, who is this relation to you.

25 Q Okay.

103

1 A So just really go from, from simple interaction
2 to, you know, a huge area. Just a lot goes on.

3 Q Okay. So help me understand, why do you tell
4 the driver to get out of the vehicle? Like why not have
5 the interview where you're talking to them through the
6 car? Just curious?

7 A Because if there's people in the -- if there's
8 multiple people in the vehicle, I'd rather have them step
9 out and if there is someone in that vehicle that might be
10 up to no good, then I want him, I want to keep them
11 separated.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Then I want to keep stories separated as well.

14 Q Okay.

15 A So if, if there are just two people, passenger,
16 driver, I want to know what he's talking, what his story
17 is and what that passenger's story is.

18 Q So what about when there's only one person in
19 the car?

20 A If there's only one person in the car, again,
21 behavior. Sometimes I've done it in the car as well. It
22 really just depends on area surrounding, behavior. If
23 there is someone in the vehicle and I still will have --
24 if I feel that I'm going to do a search based on
25 reasonable suspicion, then I'm going to have them step
104

1 out because I don't want them in the vehicle with me.
2 And then on top of that if they have a weapon of some
3 type, you know, officer safety dictates as well.

4 Q Okay. I think you said if you have reasonable
5 suspicion you're going to ask for consent. Is that fair?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Does that mean you always ask for consent
8 before you search the vehicle?

9 A I typically do. It still shows that I'm trying
10 to work with this person as well.

11 Q Okay. Do you ever ask for consent if you don't
12 have reasonable suspicion?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. And what happens, when you were a patrol
15 deputy, would people ever say no?

16 A There are some that would be -- that would
17 challenge it. And then again, I also look at too is what
18 is the totality of everything. What is it, is this

19 really worth going down this road. What is this person,
20 you know, what is this person -- if they're just saying,
21 no, I don't want to, then okay. But if they are
22 instructed to, then yes, they are required to step out.

23 Q Okay. I'm going to just take a step back
24 there. So it seems like your default, just Deputy
25 Gereb's practice, is to always ask for consent if you're
105

1 thinking that you need to search the vehicle. Is that
2 fair?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And then if they say no, sometimes you let them
5 go, as a patrol deputy?

6 A If my reasonable suspicion is there, then yes,
7 I will, I will go -- will go beyond that. Meaning that,
8 okay, you're telling me no. Okay. You know, based on
9 one of the interview questions I do ask, based on the
10 reactions to certain questions, then whether it will
11 dictate okay then I'm going to cut them loose, let them
12 be on their way, or I'm going to request a canine.

13 Q Okay. So I think that's fair. So if they say
14 no to consent to a search, you're going to do some
15 additional investigation. Is that fair?

16 A Due to when I get to the point of the search,
17 I've already asked the questions I needed to ask.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And at that point, it's their reaction to my
20 questions that, that will allow me to dictate whether I'm

21 going to ask to search the vehicle or if I need to go
22 further with the stop.

23 Q Okay. So you're either going to ask for
24 consent to search the vehicle or you're going to do
25 something else?

106

1 A If it's required, yes.

2 Q And what do those other required things look
3 like?

4 A Well, if they say no, then I will request a
5 canine. If I feel that it's warranted for that
6 situation.

7 Q Okay. If they've said no, you feel like you
8 still have reasonable suspicion to search the vehicle,
9 would you ever not call the canine and just go to the
10 search directly?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. So the normal practice, as patrol
13 deputy, was ask for consent to search. They say no, and
14 you feel like you still have reasonable suspicion, you
15 call the canine to sniff the vehicle; is that correct?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. And about how many times as a patrol
18 deputy did you call for a canine?

19 A Very rarely.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I would say maybe, if I did 100 traffic stops,

22 maybe five.

23 Q Okay. So five, maybe 5 percent of the traffic
24 stops that you did you called for a canine. And were
25 canine units always available when you called?

107

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q So sometimes they would say sorry, there's no
3 canine unit available?

4 A They would say no canine available or -- I look
5 at the distance too. If the distance, if they're on the
6 other side of the County, there's -- there's no way. I'm
7 not going to, I'm not going to have someone come out.
8 I'll see if there's -- if our canines are not
9 available --

10 Q Like our being the Sheriff's Office?

11 A The Sheriff's Office canines are not available,
12 I'll see if San Antonio Police Department has one
13 available or any of the municipalities might have one
14 available.

15 Q Okay. So how do you -- you're thinking you're
16 going to call for a canine. How do you call for a
17 canine?

18 A I get on the, the radio.

19 Q Okay.

20 A And I ask dispatch, do we have a canine
21 available to come out and do a sniff.

22 Q Okay. And they say yes, they have a canine
23 available, how do you check the distance?

24 A I go to the map and see where they're at.

25 Q Okay. So the map that we talked about before
108

1 on the CAD pops up with their locations?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And as a general rule of thumb, what would be
4 too far?

5 A Well, for me -- Bexar County is a big county.

6 If you're -- if I'm all the way on Highway 90 going out

7 towards Castroville, at the county line, and you're all

8 the way over on the northeast side, where there's high

9 traffic and stuff like that, you know, I'll take into

10 consideration, you know, hey, do -- how long, you know,

11 will this person take to get here.

12 Q Okay.

13 A But sometimes too I've been known to call, hey

14 man, how long are you out? I don't want to have you come

15 all the way over here and we, you know, basically just,

16 just takes too long.

17 Q Okay.

18 A They'll let me know.

19 Q And if it would have taken too long, let's say

20 they're on the other side of the county and it would

21 require them to go through traffic, what would you do?

22 A I'd cut that person loose.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Again it comes to the point of how long is too

25 long. How long are we going to take with this stop.

109

1 Q Do you have a rule of thumb what is too long?

2 A No. I look at -- yes and no. If you're

3 pushing 30 minutes, then that's way too long, for me

4 personally. I know that there's -- for me again there's

5 no reason for me to hold you that long.

6 Q Sure. I understand. Okay. Let's say that,

7 you know, you've decided it wasn't too long to wait and

8 the canine unit arrives, what would happen next?

9 A So --

10 Q When you were patrol deputy?

11 A So if I didn't have you in the back seat of my

12 vehicle, if there's no detention or anything like that, I

13 would have you stand off to the side. I let them know,

14 hey, these dogs are, you know, they're canines, and

15 they're going to do a drug sniff, we're going to have you

16 create distance for safety. Last thing we want is that,

17 one, is the dog to turn around and bite someone

18 unintentionally, or the driver or the owner of the

19 vehicle interfere with the dog.

20 Q Okay. And what would, what would the canine

21 unit then do after you've separated the driver from the

22 vehicle, what would happen next?

23 A What I've seen, I've seen them go and ask them,

24 you know, they ask their questions.

25 Q Ask their questions?

110

1 A Either consent or hey I'm going to let them
2 know what their instructions of what they're going to do
3 beforehand. And then they, they have the dog come out
4 and the dog does -- does whatever they're instructed to
5 do.

6 Q Okay. So let me just make sure, because you
7 use they. So the --

8 A The canine deputy.

9 Q The canine deputy will talk to the driver and
10 ask some questions or the canine deputy will talk to you
11 and ask some questions?

12 A He'll do both.

13 Q Okay. So the canine officer will probably talk
14 to you, and then he or she will go talk to the driver?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Is that fair? And how often would you estimate
17 that a canine would have alerted, when you were a patrol
18 deputy?

19 A I couldn't tell you offhand. I couldn't tell
20 you offhand.

21 Q That's okay. Would you say more times than not
22 they alerted?

23 A I would say more times.

24 Q And so probably some greater majority was an
25 alert?

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q Okay. When you were a patrol deputy, did you

3 search the car by yourself?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And so let's say that you had reasonable

6 suspicion that there was something going on and you

7 decided to search the vehicle, is there a situation like

8 that where you wouldn't call a canine at all?

9 A I didn't --

10 Q Yeah, sorry, that wasn't super clear. Would

11 you stop someone and search their vehicle without calling

12 a canine if it wasn't an inventory search?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Okay. So you could skip over the canine step

15 if you felt like you had enough reason to search straight

16 away?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q And would you search by yourself, no other

19 officer --

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q Okay. And when would you, when would you call

22 for another officer to assist you in the search?

23 A If I had multiple persons in the vehicle. Or

24 if this, if the driver was displaying behavior that they

25 might get ready to run or they might do, do something

112

1 that is a safety issue to me.

2 Q Okay. So in general, you did not call for

3 assistance unless there were multiple people, the driver

4 seemed aggressive or was doing something else that you
5 think you needed assistance, and then there might have
6 been a third.

7 A That's it.

8 Q Okay. So there's two examples. Otherwise you
9 did the search yourself.

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q And how often would you estimate that you found
12 contraband, drugs, money, guns, something along those
13 lines, when you were a patrol deputy?

14 A I couldn't, I couldn't tell you offhand. It
15 just, to me it's random.

16 Q Right.

17 A So --

18 Q So I guess I'll ask you a similar question of,
19 you know, more times than not when you were searching a
20 vehicle did you find something that was not supposed to
21 be there?

22 A Again, I couldn't tell you offhand.

23 Q That's okay if you don't know?

24 A I don't want to give you a opinion statement.
25 I couldn't tell you offhand.

113

1 Q That's okay if you don't remember and you don't
2 know exactly. I mean, you're doing the stop in the
3 moment.

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q So I totally understand.

6 Did you ever search the car as a patrol deputy

7 and not find anything at all?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Did any Sheriff's Officer supervisor or any

10 other officer praise you after maybe reviewing some of

11 your body camera footage or riding along with you or

12 being part of a stop and saying something like Deputy

13 Gereb you did a great job with that traffic stop?

14 A No, ma'am. I'm sorry, I'm going to take that

15 back.

16 Q Sure.

17 A It, you don't get like awards or pats on the

18 back. It's like hey, good job. That's it. That's all

19 the praise you get.

20 Q Sure?

21 A So we're not getting big awards or anything

22 like that. It's a all right, cool.

23 Q Well, that's kind of unfortunate in some

24 extents, because you were talking about how, you know,

25 when you were a patrol deputy, not all of the officers

114

1 decided to do traffic stops. Right? Like you exercised

2 your discretion. You went above and beyond. And no one,

3 as far as I understand from your conversation, no one

4 said Deputy Gereb, like way to go, thank you for doing

5 that. Is that fair?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Okay. And then, you know if they saw a
8 particular traffic stop and like you, I don't know, did
9 it well, they would say good job, that's it. Right?

10 A That's it. Very stoic.

11 Q Okay. What would prompt them to say, like a
12 supervisor or a fellow officer, to say Deputy Gereb, you
13 did a good job? What would cause that?

14 A Just being professional.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Not, basically not going out on a limb on some,
17 you know, for the most part just being professional and
18 maintaining my bearings.

19 Q Sure. And did any officer, supervisor or not,
20 ever say look, I wouldn't have made a traffic stop there?
21 Maybe they saw your body camera footage and say there
22 wasn't enough for a traffic stop. Did you ever get any
23 feedback like that?

24 A No, ma'am.

25 Q Did anybody ever review your body camera
115

1 footage or talk to you after a stop and say I don't think
2 you should have searched that time, it wasn't quite
3 reasonable suspicion? Did anyone ever say anything like
4 that to you?

5 A No, ma'am.

6 Q Okay. After you stopped a vehicle when you
7 were a patrol deputy, let's say you found some, like a
8 large amount of drugs, like dope or something, when you

9 were a patrol deputy, did that ever happen to you?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay. And I would assume that means that the

12 driver got charged. I'm not probably using the right

13 vernacular, but more than a citation.

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q What's the right term to say that they were

16 arrested, were they arrested?

17 A Arrested, taken into custody, that's pretty

18 much the only two terms I ooh us.

19 Q Okay. Thanks. So just bear with me. So you

20 find drugs as a patrol deputy, you arrested the person,

21 they're taken into custody. What would happen next to

22 that person?

23 A So depending on, as a patrolman, in my

24 patrolman days, I would -- if it's narcotics, we would

25 contact the on call narcotics deputy at the time.

116

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A And then we would let them know what we had.

3 Then they would say -- they would either come out or not

4 come out. We would also -- what I would do too as well

5 is I would weigh, you know, get my weights, get my

6 charges of what I have, then I would also field test.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I mean, would I take a sample, after I weighed

9 the narcotics, and put it in a, some type of drug test.

10 Q Sure.

11 A And test if it was either positive or negative.

12 If it's not -- if I don't get a positive return, then

13 hey, I don't have anything.

14 Q Sure.

15 A And then depending like I said, again, what

16 type of narcotic we have, if it's pills, you've got to

17 identify the pills.

18 Again, after all that's said and done, contact

19 the on call. And then if we're going to tow the vehicle,

20 tow the vehicle. And then take the arrested person, take

21 them down to what we call the, well, the Bexar County

22 Jail. At the time it's either the Magistrate or South

23 Tower, which is basically the Magistrate itself. And we

24 would book them into the Bexar County Jail.

25 And then obviously -- obviously write our

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1 reports, document our evidence, all that good stuff.

2 Take our report to our Assistant District Attorney, who

3 is there 24 hours a day.

4 Q Wow.

5 A And then they read the report and they either

6 accept the charges or reject the charges. And then after

7 that point is said and done, the arrested person is in

8 custody of the Bexar County Jail. Then we take our

9 evidence, we take it to our property room and we deposit

10 the evidence there.

11 Q Okay. Thank you. And let's say the ADA

12 accepts the charges.

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Do you -- what role do you have in the

15 prosecution?

16 A Nothing.

17 Q Okay.

18 A We just wait till we get, if we get called to

19 court or not.

20 Q Okay. And so how often would you say as patrol

21 deputy you got called to court?

22 A For any narcotics? Never.

23 Q Never. Okay.

24 A Not for narcotics. But it's, I have primarily

25 been taken for, when I've done DWIs.

118

1 Q Sure.

2 A Under ALR hearings or, you know, the actual

3 testimony, or there's been family violence cases,

4 criminal trespass, things of that nature. But I have

5 never been for a narcotics case.

6 Q Okay. I need to take a couple steps back.

7 What is ALR?

8 A Basically when you take someone for a DWI, I

9 forgot the acronym what it means, but it's basically in

10 the State of Texas they can challenge, try to keep their

11 license.

12 Q Okay. So that's a special DWI system?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q The ALR. So when you were patrol deputy, you
15 mostly testified in the ALR DWI context. Is that fair?

16 A Mostly, yes.

17 Q And you talked about a couple of other
18 examples, but I didn't quite understand?

19 A Criminal trespass, like say I arrested someone
20 who didn't want to leave, took them down for trespassing.
21 And family violence cases. But I have yet to be for --
22 when I was a patrolman, I have yet to be for a narcotics
23 case.

24 Q Okay. So as a patrolman, you've never had to
25 go testify because of something you found in someone's
119

1 vehicle.

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q Is that fair?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And by yes, you mean you never had to testify?

6 A No, I never had to testify.

7 Q Okay. As, as patrolman, did you ever follow up
8 on whether the person you stopped was convicted?

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q Did you have any involvement in kind of the
11 outcome of cases, or did you -- yeah, did you have any
12 involvement in the outcome of cases from folks that you
13 stopped in traffic stops?

14 A No, ma'am.

15 Q Did you ever find out what happened in some of
16 those cases, the outcome?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q So as far as, you know, your role, your job is
19 to do the police work, give the evidence to the ADA, and
20 then your job is done?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Is that fair?

23 A (Nodding head.)

24 Q And there's no feedback system from them saying
25 like Deputy Gereb, that guy you arrested on Friday has
120

1 been convicted and is going to jail?

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q Okay. I think earlier you mentioned STEP
4 enforcement. And we're probably going to -- I'm probably
5 going to take a break shortly, so let's just get through
6 the STEP enforcement, and then we'll take a bathroom
7 break.

8 Can you share with me what your understanding
9 of what STEP is?

10 A STEP is an acronym, Selective Traffic
11 Enforcement Program. It's a grant through the State of
12 Texas that gives agencies a grant, grant money to help
13 enforce traffic law.

14 Q Okay.

15 A It can either be done, either done running

16 regular traffic. They don't just like hey I saw you
17 speeding here's a citation, or here's a warning. Or it
18 can be done -- at the time you used to have the option to
19 do DWIs and we've done at night to enforce DWIs.

20 Q Okay. So is every officer who goes out on
21 patrol and does any kind of traffic stop, is that officer
22 participating in STEP?

23 A No. STEP is a volunteer thing you do aside
24 from patrol duties.

25 Q So is it an off-duty activity?
121

1 A No, ma'am. No. You still come in and sign in,
2 you know, for the traffic unit. And you go out on doing,
3 I guess basically over time. It's over time, in a sense.

4 Q That's helpful. So if you're doing -- if a
5 officer is doing STEP enforcement, it's separate from
6 their other duties. Is that fair?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q And when an officer is doing STEP enforcement,
9 they are part of the traffic unit for that period of
10 time. Is that fair?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. Are there particular offenses that the
13 STEP program targets?

14 A No, ma'am.

15 Q Are there particular locations that the STEP
16 program targets?

17 A Yes, ma'am. There are -- every year, the state

18 will give the traffic unit, hey, this is the area we
19 want -- these are the areas that we would like y'all to
20 target. And they'll give them the outline and then this
21 will' relay that information to the deputies that are
22 enrolled and actively working the STEP program.
23 Q Okay. And if there is a stop that is not in
24 the target area, is that still considered STEP
25 enforcement?

122

1 A Yes, ma'am.
2 Q Okay. So there's like the priority areas for
3 the STEP enforcement, but that's not like the exclusive
4 territory of the STEP program?
5 A No, ma'am. They would like you to spend time
6 in that area.
7 Q Sure?
8 A They want you to be in that area primarily. So
9 if you work a six-hour shift, they want you to be, spend
10 five, four, five hours in that area.
11 Q And how do those areas get identified?
12 A Usually it's by crashes.
13 Q Okay. So the high crash areas are the priority
14 areas?
15 A Yes, ma'am.
16 Q I feel like I-35 is probably a high crash area.
17 Is that fair?
18 A Yes, it is a pretty bad area.

19 Q Yeah. I mean, you know, we drove down on I-35

20 last night, and I'm sure I gave Josh like several heart

21 palpitations, but that's just how it is on I-35.

22 MR. FRIGERIO: You get used to it.

23 Q (By Ms. Hebert) So, you know, I guess if you're

24 doing traffic stops, if an officer does traffic stops on

25 I-35, would those traffic stops classify as STEP

123

1 enforcement?

2 A Yes, ma'am, as long as you're working the STEP

3 program.

4 Q Okay. So you have to be -- you have to have

5 your STEP hat on for that particular traffic stop?

6 A Yes, ma'am. So if, if you're doing -- if

7 you're working your regular shift, you don't work STEP.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Okay. But if you're going in to work STEP,

10 you're working overtime.

11 Q Okay.

12 A It's an overtime, volunteer overtime thing.

13 Q That's really helpful. Thank you.

14 MS. HEBERT: Okay. I think this is a good time

15 for a break. Does everybody feel it's a good spot to

16 take --

17 MR. FRIGERIO: Sure.

18 MS. HEBERT: Okay. We'll take ten minutes.

19 Molly, so if my watch is right, we'll come back

20 at five till?

21 THE REPORTER: Yes.

22 (Recess from 11:46 a.m. to 11:57 a.m.)

23 THE REPORTER: We're on the record.

24 Q (By Ms. Hebert) So I'd like to talk, Deputy
25 Gereb, a little bit about record keeping, especially for
124

1 general activities and then maybe later for traffic
2 stops. But before I go on, I think it's generally
3 important for police officers to have an accurate record
4 of their activities. Is that fair?

5 A As into what we do daily?

6 Q Yeah.

7 A If we have to write a report, yes. We usually
8 don't keep that with us.

9 Q Sure. But I mean it's generally important for
10 that report to be accurate. Is that fair?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And it seems like accurate reports and accurate
13 records of what happens is something that protects both
14 the police officers and the public. Is that fair? Would
15 you agree with that?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q And it also just generally provides a correct
18 record of what happened. Is that also fair?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Okay. I'm going to look at a document. Would
21 you mind getting Exhibit C?

22 MR. NELSON: Sure.

23 Q (By Ms. Hebert) And we're going to mark that
24 Exhibit 2. Why don't you just take your time to review
25 this so you know what it is. And I'm not expecting you
125

1 to be familiar with everything that is in this document,
2 to be entirely transparent. I want to ask questions
3 about what the document is and like what various fields
4 in this form actually mean. So when you're ready, can
5 you tell me what this document is?

6 A This is a SPEARS Incident Summary report.

7 Q Okay. And what does the title of SPEARS
8 Incident Summary mean?

9 A It's basically a report.

10 Q Okay.

11 A I don't recall the acronym of SPEARS, but
12 it's -- it's what gets printed out from our report
13 writing system.

14 Q Okay. So SPEARS is an acronym?

15 A Yes.

16 Q But you don't know what it stands for?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. And how is this -- if I call this the
19 SPEARS summary, will you know what I'm referring to?

20 A Yes.

21 Q All right.

22 A Or you could just say RMS report.

23 Q Mess report?

24 A RMS.

25 Q RMS. RMS report. What does RMS stand for, do
126

1 you know?

2 A I don't know. It's a report writing system.

3 So we used to have everything on certain colored paper,

4 it would be reports like that. And then several years

5 back, we went to an online report, which is what we have

6 here.

7 Q Okay. So back before the days of maybe

8 computers in the patrol vehicles, you had like a color,

9 the red report that you filled out?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Is that fair?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And this is a -- sometimes people, officers

14 call this the RMS report?

15 A Yes, we usually call it the RMS report.

16 Q Usually.

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Okay. So, but if I say the SPEARS summary?

19 A I'll still know what you're talking about.

20 Q You know what I'm talking about.

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. How does the SPEARS summary get created?

23 A It gets created by every call. So whenever we,

24 whenever we initiate a call or we respond to a call, it's

25 already -- it's already been created by, I think -- I

127

1 forgot how it gets created as far as how it gets input

2 into the system, but once it's created, it goes through,

3 I think our dispatches and all that have, that's their

4 level of stuff. I don't know how they do that, so --

5 Q So somebody on the dispatch side creates this

6 report?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Somehow. But as far as you know, this is an

9 automatic function.

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Am I understanding that correctly?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q So does a SPEARS summary get generated every

14 time you turn on your lights, for instance?

15 A No, it does not. A call has to be activated.

16 Q Okay. So earlier we talked about when you like

17 push the button to like make a stop, and I'm making a

18 stop, then a SPEARS summary would automatically get

19 created?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And if you were responding to a domestic

22 violence call and they made a call for service, it would

23 automatically create a SPEARS summary. Is that fair?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. And who's responsible for filling out

128

1 these forms? Based on kind of what you just said, it

2 seems like some of this gets generated automatically. Is

3 that fair?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And then some get filled out. Is that also

6 fair?

7 A No. So it's -- when you go into the RMS system

8 or the SPEARS system, it's basically a fill in the blank.

9 It's a do you need this box? Okay. Fill in what you

10 need to fill in from that point. Do you need this

11 criteria, like person, do you need to add this person's

12 information. The person's here, you fill out the name,

13 date of birth, what information you have for that person.

14 Evidence, any evidence, vehicles, there are separate

15 sections for each one of those.

16 Q Okay. So I think I understand that. So the

17 form gets automatically created when an incident happens;

18 is that correct?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And then there is a form, the fields of the

21 form an officer has to fill out.

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q So -- and when you say the RMS system, the RMS

24 system is on your computer?

25 A Yes.

1 Q At your CAD that we talked about earlier?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q Okay. So do you click into the RMS system to
4 get the SPEARS summary for a particular incident?

5 A So we log in. Usually if it's -- you get a --
6 we have two things. We have an incident number and a
7 case number. Okay? Incident number is generally like
8 say a traffic stop, that you did everything you needed to
9 do, you give them a warning or citation, then you let
10 them on their way. Those will not be generated until
11 after the call is completed.

12 Q The incident number.

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay.

15 A Which if you look it says CAD master incident
16 number if you look on the top here.

17 Q Okay.

18 A And then a case number. Now, if you do have a
19 case number, again, we are currently working an active
20 case, then you can go in and get the case number and you
21 can type in the case number and it will be the report.
22 And you can start working on what you need to work on.
23 Because you're going to be assigned to that case in its
24 entirety until it's completed from your end.

25 Q You would have potentially multiple incidents
130

1 for a single case?

2 A You can. But those have to be -- so if you
3 have say three different incidents, and they're tied to

4 all the same case number, they have to be linked or
5 appended to that case number. Well that's later on for
6 doing further investigations.

7 Q Okay. Let's take a couple steps back so that I
8 understand. Can an officer ever choose not to create a
9 SPEARS summary so that if there's an incident, they make
10 the traffic stop, or they've been called for service,
11 could an officer say I don't need to create a SPEARS
12 summary?

13 A No, it's automatic. It's there no matter what.

14 Q So the thing officers can choose is how much,
15 what they fill out?

16 A Yes, whatever they feel is pertinent to the
17 situation.

18 Q So are there parts of the SPEARS summary that
19 are optional?

20 A Yes. Yes and no. So like say you get, you do
21 a traffic stop. We enter the person's information. But
22 you don't have any evidence or anything to put in, so you
23 don't have to fill out any evidence.

24 You go into -- they're not being charged with
25 anything, you don't have to fill out an arrest report.

131

1 You put down, hey, I made contact -- in this
2 case Mr. Lam, you know, made contact with Mr. Lam. That
3 was it. And you fill out his information.

4 And then there's a summary, which is, you see
5 up here under Incident Details. So usually, if it's a

6 traffic stop, again, Kevin Lam was observed speeding --

7 or I'll just put simple, "Citation was issued." I keep

8 it, you know, keep it simple, the things that go in

9 there. Citation was issued for Mr. Lam, that was it.

10 But if it's a bigger case, like say caught

11 somebody with some type of evidence or narcotics or, you

12 know, weapon, something of that nature, then we start

13 filling out all this stuff. Write Mr. Lam was found to

14 be in possession of a firearm. And you go from there.

15 Q Okay. How are SPEARS summaries stored? In the

16 RMS system?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And so if you wanted to go back and look at

19 your SPEARS summaries for the last month, let's say you

20 wanted to look for a case or figure something out, would

21 you go to a particular folder for Deputy Gereb's SPEARS

22 summaries?

23 A So if -- no. What you can do -- because if you

24 type in my, say you type in my name, you can look up our

25 name, every incident we've been involved in.

132

1 But if you're looking for a particular

2 incident, you can go in and research the incident number

3 or the case number.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And you can go from there.

6 Q You can pull it up by either?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Let's say the incident's over, you've
9 completed the SPEARS summary. Do you submit it
10 somewhere?

11 A It gets submitted and it goes to a supervisor.
12 Then the supervisor looks over everything and feels like
13 hey, if there's, that there's something that we're
14 missing that we didn't put on there, they can, we'll say
15 it gets rejected, sent back to us for rework. They'll
16 say you need to add this, this is what's required you
17 need to put in there.

18 Q So you can edit it after the fact if something
19 was missing?

20 A Yeah, I guess you can say if it's not in the
21 report itself or if you need to add something to your
22 report like a supplemental report, hey why did you do
23 this, can you add a supplemental report to the incident
24 itself.

25 Q Okay. So like let's say we've got Kevin Lam
133

1 here as an involved person and let's say you realize that
2 you actually, or yeah, you realize his name is actually
3 Kelvin, and you have to go back and add the L rather than
4 because you thought it was Kevin, can you go back and
5 edit that?

6 A You can, but I, if I do that, I'll just write a
7 supplement, Kevin Lam was actually identified as Kelvin
8 Lam. There was a typo and our misunderstanding the name,

9 however I would justify the reason for the

10 misinterpretation of a name.

11 Q So you can edit this document but your best

12 practice would be to supplement?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. That's helpful.

15 How did you learn how to complete this SPEARS

16 summary?

17 A We go through a training class. Again, just

18 like everything else, there was a lot of kinks to it, a

19 lot of officers making mistakes and learning what to put

20 in, learning what, when to put in.

21 Q Sure.

22 A Where to put it in. Like if you do a DWI, a

23 DWI is not going to be done on the general report it's

24 going to be done through several different reports inside

25 that one report.

134

1 Q Okay.

2 A So you'll have the case number but you're going

3 to have like a vehicle in motion report, personnel

4 contact report. It's going to have questions in itself.

5 So you have more to it.

6 Q Okay. So you might have more things to do with

7 particular different types of incidents?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q When you were learning the training on how to

10 do a SPEARS summary, did you do practice SPEARS summaries

11 then?

12 A Yes. I believe we did. I don't recall per se.

13 But it was just basically a one-day 8-hour class you need

14 to show up and we're going to show you how to -- give you

15 the basic rundown on how to use this report.

16 Q Okay.

17 A And then since then it has actually evolved

18 since then, so updates and all that stuff.

19 Q Sure, it makes -- they change the form or

20 change what's required?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And I think you said earlier when you submit

23 it, a supervisor reviews every SPEARS summary; is that

24 correct?

25 A I'm sorry, can you repeat that.

135

1 Q Does a supervisor review every SPEARS summary?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Do you know anything about that review

4 process?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay. So somehow it gets sent to the

7 supervisor, they do their review, you're not entirely

8 sure what that entails?

9 A No. They have whatever they want, they look at

10 whatever they need to look at. As far as I'm concerned

11 or what I know, they say hey I don't like this, you need

12 to add this to your report, or hey did you add this as
13 a -- okay, you need to write a supplement as well. So
14 they, as far as what they particularly look for, I don't
15 know.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Like I say, every supervisor's different.

18 Q And have you ever -- has a supervisor ever
19 provided you direction or instruction, hey, you need to
20 add this to your SPEARS summary?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What kind of things have they asked you to add?

23 A Mostly just like if I forgot to write an arrest
24 report -- I'll give you an example. In the beginning of
25 the year, had a person that was wanted for human
136

1 smuggling. She eventually was -- because the County did
2 not want to extradite her, they rejected her
3 confirmation. So we couldn't technically keep her in
4 custody. So I didn't do an arrest report because she
5 wasn't under arrest, and she was released. Well, they
6 said we need to do an arrest report anyway. So I had to
7 do an arrest report for her.

8 Q Okay. So that's like an example of you getting
9 feedback from your supervisor saying actually you do need
10 to do this report?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Has anyone, any supervisor ever talked to you

13 and said look you need to add more detail to your SPEARS

14 summaries?

15 A Yes, because they can actually look at this
16 live. This can actually be done, looked at live. So I
17 can type it and he can look at it and then he'll send it
18 back or he'll call, we'll discuss it, hey you need to
19 figure out, like you need to add this. Did you do this,
20 did you do that. You know, whatever he feels I need to
21 add, and if I need -- and if I don't, I feel that it
22 doesn't need to be added, we'll discuss it as to why it
23 doesn't need to be added.

24 Q Sure.

25 A Or if it does need to be added, whatever

137

1 nature. Like say this is a case of a homicide, a
2 supervisor is going to look over it, you know, and you
3 know, live time, like hey, I'm going to look at it.
4 Don't, don't submit it, but I'm going to look at what
5 you're putting. And then we're going to look at, hey,
6 did you have contact with this person. Did you have
7 contact with that person. What did you see? You know,
8 they're going to go through that, that range of motion.
9 Did you identify any weapons, did you identify evidence,
10 did you mark it, what did you -- you know, they're going
11 to go through whatever they need to go through.

12 But for the most part, like I said, this is --
13 they usually have -- for me, it's very rare that I get a
14 kickback or rework. But that's usually the situation.

15 But like I said, bigger situations they're going to
16 make -- not -- they're going to make sure things are done
17 properly.

18 Q Sure. And the way -- are you familiar with
19 Google docs?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So you know how when you open Google docs you
22 can see like my cursor is here, Deputy Gereb's cursor is
23 here. Is that the kind of thing you can see here, it's
24 like live, you're both collaborating on a document?

25 A No. No. It's hey, Sergeant, here's the report
138

1 for that, submit the report. They're like well, okay,
2 let me -- I'll let you know, I'll look at it. They do it
3 especially a lot for people who are in training forks
4 deputies that are in training they want to review it
5 before it gets submitted, to make sure the grounds being
6 covered and that the PTO is doing a proper job of
7 training that deputy.

8 Q Okay. So the live reviewing process tends to
9 happen more for newer folks?

10 A It tends, yes.

11 Q But if it's a big incident?

12 A If it's a big incident they're still going to
13 look over it. They're not going to -- they won't -- I'm
14 not going to say they're going to ask you to change your
15 report, they're going to ask you to make sure that you

16 have everything that needs to be in that report, in that
17 report. Otherwise they'll say hey, you need to make sure
18 that you do an arrest report or you do, you know, you put
19 down what ambulance showed up, you know, was it medic 1,
20 2, 3, was it -- what investigator showed up, make sure
21 that's in your report. You know, you know, who did the,
22 who did the log, who did the evidence collection, who,
23 you know, they're going to mention things of that nature.

24 Q Okay. And when the -- before the, before the
25 report is submitted, did you access the report on your

139

1 computer at the same time that your supervisor is
2 accessing the report?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And so you guys can call each other and say
5 actually that woman was a female or you need to make sure
6 you include her gender?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Have you -- do you know of any officers
9 who have ever received a comment that they generally need
10 to improve their SPEARS summaries?

11 A No. I'll say if, if it's become a issue, the
12 officer -- the supervisor will actually pull the person
13 aside. That's what we've always seen. Or if it's just a
14 general issue in itself, like everybody's making the same
15 issue, you know, they'll send out I guess an email or
16 some type of memo, or they'll address us in -- address
17 the shift as a whole, hey everybody, make sure that we're

18 doing this and this and this.

19 Q Okay.

20 A So that's what they'll do.

21 Q So if an individual officer is having issues,

22 they'll pull them aside. But if the unit or bigger

23 group, they'll send out an email and say fix this?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. Let's go back to this page for Exhibit
140

1 2. You talked a little bit at the beginning about these

2 three numbers. And I think I understand why there could

3 be an incident number versus a case number, but why is

4 there a different number for the SPEARS summary at the

5 stop?

6 A This one I don't know. I don't want to assume

7 what it is. I'm pretty sure it could be just a report

8 number that SPEARS is connected in itself. The master

9 incident number, every call, everything you do gets a

10 master incident number. The case number, if you need

11 one, will come secondary.

12 Q Okay. That's helpful.

13 And I think it would be helpful to walk down

14 the CAD problem nature in the incident details section.

15 What does that refer to?

16 A The CAD problem, why are you there, this one,

17 stabbing in progress.

18 Q And obviously the stabbing is no longer in

19 progress at this point. So can this be updated or is

20 this what's just input in the beginning?

21 A That's what inputted in the beginning. It can
22 be updated. Again, that's on the reporting officer.

23 Q Okay. So the reporting officer, whoever starts
24 the report, is in charge of updating this?

25 A It can. So if I'm the main officer, I'm the
141

1 reporting, I'm the report responsible officer, it's my
2 job to go through and make sure I have everything in
3 there because ultimately it comes down to me.

4 Q Okay. And what does source refer to?

5 A Source, how -- was it a 911 call? Was it a,
6 what do you call it, how did you get that information,
7 how did we come about this, did you -- did you -- did you
8 activate it yourself, you know, was it officer initiated?
9 How did this, who did it, how did we get this info.

10 Q And is this like a drop-down menu or do you
11 have to input it?

12 A I believe it's a drop down.

13 Q And then there's reported time. What's that
14 about?

15 A The date and time.

16 Q Date and time. What's the time of what?

17 A That the incident started.

18 Q Okay. So reported time is the start. And
19 incident type, we see homicide in that line. What is
20 that referring to?

21 A A murder, a homicide.

22 Q Is that a drop-down menu I think as well or

23 what is that?

24 A Usually everything down there is drop-down menu

25 and then other things you have to type in.

142

1 Q And maybe if you see a place where you actually

2 have to type it in please let me know and I'll try to

3 remember to ask.

4 A So like addresses, addresses are typically.

5 Q Type in?

6 A Type in. Summaries, like I said, you've got a

7 detail here. The CAD problem is your standard progress,

8 that's a drop down. Your evidence, if you're labeling

9 evidence a certain way, like I say if you've got this

10 case, if it's a stabbing, probably a knife. So what kind

11 of knife was it, if it, was it a personal knife, was it,

12 you know, something of that nature, those are drop downs.

13 Q Okay, that's helpful?

14 A But if you need to put detail into it, it's

15 usually an address, names, type in. Addresses are

16 typically typed in.

17 Q Okay.

18 A The only thing on the address I would say that

19 it's not typed in because now it asks you if it's a

20 street, highway, commercial business. Those are also a

21 drop-down menu.

22 Q Okay. So the classification.

23 A Yes.

24 Q Of a address.

25 A (Nodding head.)

143

1 Q I see that there, in the incident details
2 section there's priority 1. I would assume a stabbing,
3 potential homicide is a really high priority. So does
4 that mean 1 is the highest priority?

5 A I'm going to say yes. I believe that's
6 inputted by dispatch.

7 Q Okay. So dispatch puts in the priority level.

8 A Yes.

9 Q And then we've got incident time. What does
10 that mean?

11 A Usually, when I type, I type in, it's usually
12 the incident time that the reported time came out.

13 Q Say that again.

14 A So usually the way I've done it is that this is
15 different because it could be when they showed up on
16 scene. But usually what I've done it's usually the same
17 as the starting time. Because both --

18 Q So when you do the report, help me understand,
19 the reported time and the incident time are the same
20 thing?

21 A That's usually how I've done it. Because
22 again, it's, the incident time is the time of the time of
23 the report, that's when it's happening.

24 Q Okay. So here we've got maybe 15 minutes

25 between the reported time and the incident time. Why
144

1 would there be 15 minutes here.

2 A I don't know. I wasn't the reporting officer.

3 Q Okay. That's fine. I just was trying to

4 understand what 15 minutes might be.

5 A I couldn't tell you. It could be the response

6 time.

7 Q Okay.

8 A How long it took them to get there.

9 Q Okay.

10 A I believe at this time, at this location,

11 because I used to -- this is one of the areas I also used

12 to patrol.

13 Q Sure.

14 A Traffic is heavy build up.

15 Q So maybe this was the time -- am I

16 understanding correctly that you're saying the reported

17 time is maybe when the call came in?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And then the incident time is what?

20 A Possibly when they made the location.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Again, I don't know what the reporting

23 person --

24 Q Sure. That's okay. And incident location, is

25 this automatically generated or do they suggest ad,
145

1 select a drop down or do they have to input this, do you
2 know?

3 A You have to input this.

4 Q Input. Okay. Incident status and incident
5 status date, these are blank in this example but what
6 kind of information go in there.

7 A I would say the same thing as reported time and
8 date. I don't know -- I know it's a drop down, I just
9 don't remember what the drop downs are.

10 Q Okay. And then we already talked about
11 summary, you type into that classification. I feel like
12 it's pretty self-evident. That seems like it's drop
13 down?

14 A I don't want to say yes or no. I don't recall.

15 Q That's okay. You don't know. The next section
16 is external incident numbers. Do you know what kind of
17 information goes in this section?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q Okay.

20 A The -- yeah, I don't know what would go in this
21 one.

22 Q Okay. And then we've got involved persons.
23 Would this be where a witness is -- information would go?

24 A It could be a witness. It could be the
25 arrested person. It could be anybody that's involved.

1 Q Okay. So a potential suspect might be here?

2 A I believe so. If not, it's going to label them

3 as SP, or suspect, there is a, I know there's a box for a

4 suspect person, so -- and then there's, you have the

5 people of other and then you have a witness box.

6 Q Okay.

7 A When it prints out, I believe it comes up under

8 persons involved.

9 Q So it all gets assembled here?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Under persons involved. All that information

12 about people on the scene or the suspect, it all gets in

13 this document?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Let's skip to Page 3, and involved

16 property. And there's a pretty lengthy list here. But

17 how is it generated?

18 A Input. It's handwritten input.

19 Q Okay.

20 A There are some drop down boxes. So ID card.

21 You could put -- there's a drop down that says ID card,

22 and you could say school ID, personal ID, something of

23 that nature.

24 Q Okay. And let's skip to the next page, Page 4.

25 And look down to the section that's titled involved

1 officers. In the first line, it says reporting officer.

2 Am I reading that correctly?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And then it's got, looks like a name in capital

5 letters. Am I reading that correctly? Is that an

6 officer name?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And what's the next number in the line?

9 A That's a number, I believe that's going to be

10 the, the employee number.

11 Q Their employee number?

12 A Yes.

13 Q At the Sheriff's Office employee number?

14 A Yes.

15 Q So you've got reporting officer, the name of

16 the officer employee number. BCS what does that stand

17 for?

18 A Bexar County officer.

19 Q What does the next thing mean, sworn?

20 A Sworn, we're sworn officers.

21 Q Okay. And then what's the next thing? There's

22 violent crime in capital letters?

23 A Violent crime. So this person here is Sergeant

24 Mahon, he's assigned to the violent -- he's the

25 supervisor over the violent crime investigators.

148

1 Q Okay. And you can't tell their rank here based

2 on that?

3 A No.

4 Q You just knew that, right?

5 A Yes. I've worked with him several times.

6 Q So their division number is what shows up at
7 the end of this line?

8 A Yes.

9 Q So looking to the next line, it starts with
10 assisting officer. Am I reading that correctly?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q What is the difference between the reporting
13 and assisting officer?

14 A Usually the reporting officer is the one taking
15 lead. In this case, Sergeant Mahon might be taking lead
16 as the supervisor, and he, as far as for the
17 investigator's side.

18 Q Okay. So if someone's taking lead, does that
19 mean that the reporting officer might change if a
20 supervisor comes onto the scene?

21 A I'm not too sure on how that gets labeled in
22 here because sometimes it will say reporting officer and
23 that wasn't the reporting officer. It could be that he's
24 the reporting officer for that section, he's responsible
25 over that section for that scene.

149

1 Q Okay. And assisting officer, does that mean
2 that every officer who comes to the scene gets listed as
3 assisting if they're not reporting?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And how significant of a role do you have to

6 have as an officer to get listed as assisting? For
7 example, like if you're the guy who's manning the
8 perimeter and signing people in, do you get listed as
9 assisting officer?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay.

12 A You're -- as long as you're responding to the
13 call or assigned to the call, you're, you're there.

14 Q Okay. So default, doesn't matter how
15 insignificant a role you played in that?

16 A You could be the last person on scene, showed
17 up, turned around and that was it, and you're still going
18 to be assigned to the call.

19 Q Okay. Let's go back to the second line where
20 we're talking about assisting officer and then we see a
21 name, and the employee ID number. On the second line
22 there's inactive employee. What does that mean?

23 A So Randy is a Cal a, he was with the Sheriff's
24 Office. He retired from the Sheriff's Office and is
25 currently with another agency.

150

1 Q Okay. So he's currently now with a different
2 agency?

3 A Yes.

4 Q But I assume that at the time of this stabbing,
5 he was not in an active employee?

6 A No. He was -- he was a sworn -- it would say

7 sworn.

8 Q Okay. So does that mean that this section of
9 the report changes based on when you print it?

10 A I couldn't tell you. I don't know.

11 Q Okay. What is score?

12 A Score is -- it's a community policing unit. I
13 think it's like the sheriff's community outreach. I
14 forget what else that means.

15 Q Okay. So he was with the score unit at this
16 time. Is that fair?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. Let's go to Page 6. And at the top it
19 says General Report, Incident, and it has the same SPEARS
20 number. Can you tell me what this page is?

21 A It's a report, general report. I know, I think
22 I did mine by accident as a general report. Because once
23 you, I have -- me personally, I have a bad habit of you
24 have to sign your, digitally sign, so you put it in by
25 putting your employee number.

151

1 Q Okay.

2 A So what you do, it says author, it's got that
3 number, that's my employee number.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And once you do that, you can't delete it. So
6 I was supposed to right a supplemental and instead I just
7 did a general report on it.

8 Q Okay. So your general report in this example

9 was an accident?

10 A No. I was writing, I meant to put a
11 supplement, a supplemental report, but I accidentally
12 clicked on the general report so this is how it got sent,
13 so --

14 Q Okay. So let's go back to the involved
15 officers on Page 4. Are you listed on the involved
16 officers?

17 A Page 5.

18 Q Or Page -- 4. Oh, Page 5?

19 A Page 5.

20 Q So you're listed as assisting reporting
21 officer. And why are you a reporting officer there?

22 A I believe it's because I made a report.

23 Q Okay. So then does reporting officer here
24 indicate every officer who makes a report back here?

25 A I believe so. I couldn't tell you. But I know
152

1 from my end I did a report on it so --

2 Q Sure. And in general, we were -- I think you
3 were talking about the fact that you meant to do a
4 supplemental report here.

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q What's the difference between a general report
7 and a supplemental report?

8 A A general report usually is the person that's
9 the reporting officer, the one that's taking lead that's

10 supposed to be over all of this. Because they, you know,
11 they were either first on scene or it was their incident
12 or this is their case, whatever the case is.

13 Supplement is hey I'm assisting you, this is
14 what I did on this day. This is what my actions were.

15 Q Okay. So the general report is, for lack of a
16 better descriptor, the main report.

17 A Yes.

18 Q Is that fair?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And my, like I said, mine was accidental.

22 Q That's okay. I think it's still just helpful
23 to understand what it is.

24 Are there general reports for every incident?

25 A No, ma'am.

153

1 Q Why not?

2 A Because not every incident requires a case
3 number. Usually we do a general supplemental report.,
4 it's usually done because you have some type of offense
5 or some type of information you need to put in. If it
6 was an information report or, like this, a homicide, or
7 you have something that's going to be going further than
8 what the incident initially. Say if I do a field
9 contact, I come out, I talk to you, hey, I just did -- my
10 summary, I made contact with John Doe, he was walking
11 down the street. I did -- here is his information,

12 that's it. It's not a general report, a supplemental
13 report is required.

14 Q Okay.

15 A But did a quick report.

16 Q Okay.

17 A If you go back to Page 1.

18 Q Sure.

19 A Which is right here, under Summary, it says
20 Kelvin Lam stabbed and killed his wife. So it's a
21 summary of the incident. So --

22 Q And this -- was a summary required?

23 A Usually, yes. Yes.

24 Q Okay. But the general report is not required.

25 A No. If it's just an incident without a case
154

1 number.

2 Q Okay. And so I thought we kind of were talking
3 about earlier case numbers being like ones that are kind
4 of more ongoing. Is that a fair assessment of case
5 number?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q And so -- but every call for service gets a
8 incident number.

9 A Yes. Every call -- every time there is an
10 incident, any time that there's, whether officer
11 initiated, call for service, anything, there is an
12 incident number for it.

13 Q Okay. So if we have a traffic stop, for
14 example, what parts of the SPEARS summary are required?

15 A Typically, what's recently came out is the
16 person involved, and then you could put the vehicle,
17 their vehicle, and then the summary.

18 Q Let me just stop you for a second. The vehicle
19 would be the involved property?

20 A Yes. Or it should be --

21 Q Somewhere in there?

22 A Going to be involved property or should be a
23 vehicle section.

24 Q Okay. Or a separate section?

25 A Yes.

155

1 Q That's okay. I'm just helping to know. So in
2 every SPEARS summary there should be the like general up
3 here incident details information, the summary, the
4 involved person, and the involved property/vehicle.

5 A Yes. Recently, it was -- it was more
6 redirected, more specified on how to, what needs to be
7 put in, especially for traffic stops. It was more
8 specified. Probably about a year or so ago. Used to
9 because of the Sandra Bland Act it was here, here's your
10 warning, copy of your citation or copy of your warning
11 and we had to provide that to them. And then it was
12 recently now because there was a big issue that the
13 officers weren't putting the proper information in now
14 you've got to put somebody's information into who you

15 made contact with.

16 Q Okay. So a year ago they started requiring you
17 to put in the driver information?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Am I understanding that correctly?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Before the Sandra Bland Act, you didn't
22 necessarily have to do that?

23 A No. We just had to provide them a copy of the
24 citation, or warning.

25 Q The driver?

156

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Let's go back to Page 6 with your
3 report. There's the author line and the entered by line.
4 Are these always the same?

5 A Yes.

6 Q So there's no reason that there would be a
7 separate author from entered by?

8 A No, there shouldn't be any reason.

9 Q Would there ever be a reason that the report
10 time and the entered time would be different?

11 A No.

12 Q So those should always be the same?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And is it required that an officer complete
15 their general report on the same day as the incident?

16 A Typically if you're the main one, yes.

17 Q Okay.

18 A This one, I was, if I remember this incident
19 correctly, I was there to assist.

20 Q Right. And you were -- you already indicated
21 this particular example on Page 6 of Exhibit 2 was a
22 mistaken general report?

23 A Yes.

24 Q You meant to do a supplemental report and I'm
25 sorry that I picked this one for you. But in general,
157

1 whoever's doing the main report has to do it the same
2 day?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. When you do something like a traffic
5 stop or a call for service like domestic violence, when
6 do you complete the general report?

7 A Usually by the end of the day.

8 Q So --

9 A When I was on patrol, if it was a domestic
10 violence situation or whatnot, I typically would, if it
11 was an assault, I have to put all that stuff in, if
12 someone's getting taken to jail, the report has to be
13 done before you take it to the ADA.

14 Q Okay. So let's say you do the domestic
15 violence service call. Do you fill out the general
16 report in your patrol vehicle immediately following the
17 call?

18 A Yes. Not if I have an arrest, if somebody's an
19 arrest, I will take and I will fill out the report when I
20 get down to the jail.

21 Q Okay. And when you do a traffic stop, do you
22 fill out the report, general report immediately after
23 doing the stop?

24 A No general report is required unless you have
25 some type of case number that required say some type of
158

1 evidence or someone going to jail, something of that
2 nature.

3 Q Okay. But if you decided to fill one out or
4 you decided to fill, you had to fill one out, when would
5 you fill that out, that report?

6 A Usually typically the same day. I try to get
7 them done after the stop is over. Because if not, the --
8 it builds up. And traffic stops really aren't, I
9 wouldn't say not a primary issue. They're not, they're
10 not a Cause Number. They don't require a case number.

11 Q Okay. I'm going to go back to your example on
12 Page 6. And I see the last sentence says BWC available.
13 What does that mean?

14 A Body worn camera is available.

15 Q And generally, we just talked about how every
16 officer that goes out in the field has a body worn
17 camera. Shouldn't there be body worn cameras all the
18 time?

19 A You mean on as in they're buffering.

20 Q Just available footage, like if you're
21 responding to a service call, shouldn't the default be
22 that there's a body worn camera?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Available? So like generally, all of these
25 incident reports should include body worn camera
159

1 available. Is that fair?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Now, I will say, like I said, if you show up
5 last on the scene, you should have one anyways, but
6 there's some people that if they're on the way there and
7 they're maybe a mile from a, from the scene, and they're
8 turned around because they get canceled.

9 Q Yeah, I understand that. So that would be the
10 exception to the general rule. Is that fair?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Let's go to Page 7. This seems to be one of
13 those supplemental reports that you were talking about;
14 is that correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And this is a, the author is a different
17 officer. Is that also correct? Am I reading that?

18 A Yes.

19 Q In the right way? Okay. And when should an
20 assisting officer complete a supplemental report?

21 A Typically, usually do it the same day. A lot
22 of officers will do it based on their involvement. If
23 you were directly involved, like you were directly hands
24 on into the incident, you were there, you saw the whole
25 nine, typically it's all done right then and there, right
160

1 then as soon as possible.

2 Some officers have, they, if they're not
3 directly involved or they're just assisting like the
4 perimeter, they'll do a small supplemental like the next
5 day.

6 Q And if you're assisting, are you required to do
7 a supplemental report?

8 A Yes. On the case I'm -- I would say yes. I
9 would say not required, but if you're assisting depending
10 on say let's say a traffic stop, I showed up, you were
11 assisting, I show up to assist you, but nothing happened
12 or I just assisted you with a search of the vehicle, you
13 could put down -- I guess on the action entry, made
14 location, assisted with search of the vehicle, and then
15 that's it. Some supervisors do want you to do a
16 supplemental if you're doing more hands on direct
17 involved in.

18 Q From that I understand that you don't always
19 have to do a supplemental report when you assist.

20 A Yes. I believe that depends on the situation,
21 like I say, traffic stop, again, showed up, covered --

22 assisted with the cover, and that's it. That's an action

23 entry. But say if there's, if you're involved a little

24 bit more, then you add a little bit more onto it.

25 Q Okay. So generally, and if I'm understanding
161

1 you correctly, you should -- an assisting officer should

2 do a supplemental report if they have involvement in the

3 incident other than just I'm here.

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Let's skip the next couple of pages,

6 which seem to be more reports, and a whole bunch of

7 supplements. Let's get to Page 11. This looks like a

8 supplemental report done by Deputy Babb. Am I reading

9 that correctly?

10 A Yes.

11 Q But the narrative is blank; is that correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Why -- why would that be the case?

14 A I couldn't tell you. I don't know what was

15 going on with this, with him, or if he did that

16 intentionally or if he did it, like something happened

17 that it wasn't saved properly. Because there have been

18 times on my reports that I'll do the report, I'll write

19 my fancy report, and then I turn it into the ADA but then

20 when I go back it's not there. I think that's a possible

21 glitch in the system.

22 Q Okay.

23 A But again, I don't know on his, I don't know

24 what was going on with that.

25 Q So you wouldn't know exactly what happened
162

1 here?

2 A No.

3 Q Okay. Let's skip on Page 25. There's a lot of

4 supplemental reports in here. I'm going to skip to 25.

5 I think this may be what you were referring to a little

6 earlier. Let's look at the section that says action log.

7 What is the action log?

8 A Everything that happened. Everything that

9 happened that day. Who -- basically an action log is, I

10 guess they do an entry. So instead of doing the

11 supplemental report, it shows like say in the first

12 sentence I assisted in investigating by escorting

13 so-and-so downtown to the CID office and that was it.

14 That was hit involvement.

15 Q Okay. And is this what you meant earlier when

16 you were talking about key card notes?

17 A No, no key card notes are put on the key card.

18 Q Okay.

19 A This is put into the actual SPEARS RMS report.

20 Q Okay. Help me understand, what are the key

21 card notes?

22 A Key card notes is a, it's almost the same thing

23 as an action log entry. It used to be what first came

24 out before the RMS, before the RMS system was available,

25 we would put down basically what an action log is, made

163

1 location, these were my actions, this is what I did.

2 Left location, that's it. Now, because this is out, it's

3 become a little bit more -- less of putting it in there

4 and more of putting it into the report.

5 Q Okay. So let's take this section by section

6 then. When it says type, in the first column, what does

7 that mean?

8 A I'm sorry, you said type?

9 Q Yeah. We're looking at the action log. In the

10 first, very first column says type.

11 A Okay. So this CID follow up, that's what they

12 were. This, this deputy here is a CID advice Garrett.

13 Q Okay. So what I'm asking is the column type,

14 what are these entries?

15 A Oh.

16 Q What goes there?

17 A What you did. What kind of action you took.

18 Q Okay. What kind of action.

19 A Yes.

20 Q And is it a drop-down menu?

21 A Yes, that one is a drop-down menu.

22 Q Okay. And entry time, does this mean --

23 A That's generated when you click on it and do an

24 action log, just like with the reports, it's generated

25 when you select that option.

164

1 Q Okay. And is any of -- is that automatic at

2 all or you have to select, you say --

3 A The time?

4 Q Yeah.

5 A No, no, it goes in when you do it.

6 Q Okay. When you enter whatever you're entering

7 it automatically gets the entry time?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And what is the event time? It seems like all

10 of these match. Right? So why the two columns? What's

11 the difference between these two columns entry time and

12 event time?

13 A Entry time is when you enter it, event time is

14 when you enter it. I don't know why it's separate like

15 that.

16 Q Okay.

17 A That's beyond me.

18 Q And author, that would be the author of the

19 action?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And what does link mean?

22 A I don't know.

23 Q Okay.

24 A That, I do not know.

25 Q And what is the log entry column about?

165

1 A It's basically what you did.

2 Q And this is what an officer types in?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is there any drop-down menu here?

5 A No. This is a type-in.

6 Q Okay. Let's skip down to the row that begins
7 review.

8 A You said review?

9 Q It's like the middle and then there's a large
10 blank space after it. So it's that row before the blank
11 space.

12 A I'm sorry -- oh, here it is. There, I'm sorry.

13 Q No, it's okay. Very small print too. What is
14 this line about, what does the review mean?

15 A I assume it was -- I don't want to assume. But
16 if it's a drop-down menu, that's probably what this
17 person, this reporting person or entry did.

18 Q What did they review?

19 A Whatever they put on here.

20 Q Okay.

21 A That's --

22 Q That's the extent of what you know?

23 A Yes.

24 MS. HEBERT: I think this is a good time for a
25 quick lunch break. How long do you think we could do

166

1 lunch in?

2 THE REPORTER: We're off the record.

3 (Recess from 12:47 p.m. to 1:28 p.m.)

4 THE REPORTER: We are back on the record.

5 Q (By Ms. Hebert) We are now back from lunch and
6 I want to talk about criminal interdiction. What does
7 criminal interdiction mean?

8 A Well, criminal interdiction it's a broad scope.
9 It could range from -- it typically is, I guess you could
10 say typically identified as highway interdiction, where
11 you find large amounts of narcotics, money, guns, humans,
12 that's typically what it's associated with.

13 Interdiction, criminal interdiction is a broad
14 scope of things. It can go from working at the airport,
15 working in the parcel interdiction, it can go all the way
16 to, you know, regular hotel, motel, interdiction is just
17 a broad scope.

18 Q Okay. And then for the Sheriff's Office, does
19 criminal interdiction mean highway interdiction or does
20 it include all these other things?

21 A It includes all the other things.

22 Q Okay. So what are the goals of criminal
23 interdiction?

24 A Just basically -- basically to stop crime and
25 be proactive, go out there looking for people that are
167

1 involved in large -- I guess on a more large scale of
2 criminal offenses.

3 Q Okay. And I think I remember you saying
4 earlier today that the Sheriff's Office criminal
5 interdiction unit was created in 2020; is that right?

6 A There have been various forms of it. They have
7 never lasted as long as our current unit is. But since
8 I, since we, we started it in 2020, it's been going on
9 since then.

10 Q Okay. And what was the form of criminal
11 interdiction before the separate criminal interdiction
12 unit?

13 A I believe that it was just traffic, guys
14 running traffic, from the traffic units, and they were on
15 the highways, just as a random thing and they would go do
16 it.

17 And they had small, like one or two guys that
18 would do it here and there. And it was able to last,
19 from my understanding what I was told in the past, it
20 would last about two, three months and then it would
21 physician will out.

22 Q So it would be more like a task force?

23 A No. No, no, no.

24 Q Okay?

25 A Just it was started and then it wouldn't catch
168

1 on, and so they would just do away with the unit.

2 Q Okay. And so were you part of the criminal
3 interdiction unit for the Sheriff's Office when it
4 started then in 2020?

5 A Yes.

6 Q So you were one of the, for lack of a better

7 descriptor, founding members?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And when it was created in 2020, do you
10 know why the separate unit was created?

11 A No. I honestly don't. They just said hey, you
12 want to do this, and I said yes, sure.

13 Q Yeah.

14 A That's pretty much, when you're a proactive
15 person, you get hand picked to do a job. That usually
16 says a lot about the officer in itself. And it shows
17 that people are looking at you and how you work and that
18 you get a good, I guess you could say you get a good
19 briefing or a good back story from people that, like
20 supervisors and stuff like that.

21 Q I don't follow you. I'm sorry.

22 A Meaning, you know, a supervisor will reach out,
23 and like hey, how is this guy. And you know, that -- the
24 supervisor will brief them, this is what we think of him,
25 this is how it looks. My supervisor at the time, I never
169

1 got pats on the back, but he's a hard worker and does
2 what he's supposed to do. And never, you never have to
3 get on him for anything. And if you do, it's more
4 something minor.

5 Q Okay. And when the unit was created in 2020,
6 how many officers were part of the unit?

7 A There were four.

8 Q So in 2020, there were four criminal

9 interdiction officers?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Do you remember their names?

12 A Yes. One was John Aguillon. Another one is

13 Deputy Treadwell. And we had a couple of guys that

14 rotated out. One was Chris Terrazas and he went back to

15 street crimes. And the other one was Gil Martinez. And

16 then of course me.

17 Q Okay. So that sounds like five.

18 A There was five. But Terrazas, when he went

19 back to street crimes, Gil Martinez replaced him.

20 Q Okay. And what's the size of the criminal

21 interdiction unit now?

22 A Two.

23 Q Two. Why the decrease?

24 A There -- so when I went back to patrol for

25 staffing issues, they went down to three. And then there

170

1 was a major event that happened. There was a guy came

2 in, was evading from police, shooting at law enforcement

3 during an active vehicle pursuit. They engaged -- they

4 engaged in the shootout, and, you know, they were -- I

5 don't know the, I guess the extent of their role. I just

6 know that they were involved in the shootout, which led

7 to a person being deceased.

8 So, and then of course they go on, not to

9 leave, but during the investigation, cleared by Grand

10 Jury, and then the formation of TAG was started.

11 Q What's TAG stand for?

12 A Texas Anti-Gang unit.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Deputy Aguillon went to TAG, to the intel side.

15 Deputy Treadwell went back to traffic. Deputy Gil went

16 to the covert side of TAG, and then I was just in patrol.

17 Q Okay.

18 A And Chris Terrazas was on street crimes, so --

19 Q So today you're still on the criminal

20 interdiction unit?

21 A Yes. I came back and have been on since.

22 Q And who else -- who's the other officer?

23 A Right now it's deputy Louie Estrada.

24 Q Okay. And it was previously Deputy Babb. He

25 was probably an officer with you. At what point -- how

171

1 many, how many officers were there when Deputy Babb was a

2 criminal interdiction officer?

3 A Just two. Deputy Babb actually took a position

4 at the training academy. He went to the training academy

5 and went, we -- at that point we brought on deputy

6 Estrada.

7 Q Okay. So it went down from five -- four, to

8 two?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And then Deputy Babb was replaced by this new

11 person?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Okay. Who is your supervisor today?

14 A Still sergeant Gamboa.

15 Q And so what is Sergeant Gamboa over? If he's

16 not just over -- if he's not part of the criminal

17 interdiction unit?

18 A He's over us. He oversees our operations, as

19 well as over the intel side of TAG.

20 Q Okay. So are you part of the Texas Gang

21 Enforcement group then?

22 A I'm a part of Organized Crime Unit.

23 Q Okay.

24 A We kind of -- and then we also work

25 hand-in-hand with TAG.

172

1 Q Okay. And who is Sergeant Gamboa's supervisor?

2 A It would be Lieutenant Fred Viletti.

3 Q We talked a little bit about criminal

4 interdiction including various different types of

5 interdiction activities. You talked about highway

6 interdiction. What percentage of criminal interdiction

7 activities is highway interdiction?

8 A It really depends on the agent itself, the

9 agency itself, what they're targeting. With us, we have

10 been removed from the highway due to a human smuggling

11 issue. Human smuggling has become so dangerous that the

12 people that are -- the smugglers that are bringing these

13 people in are evading and they're crashing these cars and
14 people are getting hurt. So we're not -- we're taking a
15 more precautionary investigative step to it and we're not
16 pursuing them on the highway. I guess we're working off
17 more I'm tell based things so we can tie them down to a
18 location versus a vehicle.

19 Q Okay. So you're no longer doing traffic stops
20 on I-35?

21 A Well, Bexar County, the map itself, has
22 multiple highways.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A Multiple loops. Multiple Farm-to-Market county
25 roads, back roads into, into the County. So there's more
173

1 ways to attack that than just hitting the highway.

2 Q Sure.

3 A But again, the issue is our admin does not, for
4 the safety of migrants, we don't want, we don't want them
5 to get hurt. And there have been several issues over the
6 last year where migrants have been killed by, by agencies
7 pursuing them. So it's a safety issue. Mostly, you
8 know, for them. Because we don't, like I said, we don't
9 want somebody getting hurt.

10 Q Okay. So you're still patrolling the, in
11 criminal interdiction fashion, making stops on other
12 places throughout the County, is that fair?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And when you said our admin doesn't want, does

15 that mean it's management?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Or administrator --

18 A Administration. It's like I said mostly

19 because they look at everything to see what the other

20 agencies around us are doing and the liability it can

21 become.

22 Q Okay. So if I'm understanding you correctly,

23 management has pulled you off of certain highways and

24 said go be on these other places?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

174

1 Q Okay. But you are still doing traffic stops in

2 the criminal interdiction capacity?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. When you're working criminal

5 interdiction, do you respond to other calls for service,

6 like domestic violence or potential burglary or something

7 along those natures?

8 A Yes. From time to time we will assist patrol

9 with calls. If there are calls that are a little bit

10 more extreme, such as a standoff or a barricaded subject,

11 something that needs a little bit more specialized

12 action, we will go out and assist.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Mostly, primarily on perimeter. But we have

15 been known to be in the mix with like say SWAT and stuff

16 like that.

17 Q And do you as an individual officer make the
18 decision to respond to a call for service or are you
19 given an order?

20 A Both.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Both. We -- we primarily, let's say we're
23 given the discretion of you know what you need to do.
24 You know your job. You know what your responsibilities
25 are. You go handle what you're supposed to handle.

175

1 Q What percentage of your work time would you say
2 you make traffic stops?

3 A Nowadays I would say about 60 percent.

4 Q 60 percent. You say now ha days. That means
5 it changed?

6 A Because we shifted from the highways, we've
7 gone to more, the more specialized part of intervention,
8 such as -- like we work with UPS, and they'll allow us to
9 assist, you know, with something suspicious.

10 Q United States parcel service?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Or we'll be proactive, who's smuggling any type
14 of contraband through the mail. And then we'll also,
15 we're also trying to work with Amtrak so we're trying to
16 get our hands on like the airports and things of that
17 nature because there are other ways of interdiction that

18 contraband and all that is being sent through.

19 Q Have you been trained in criminal interdiction
20 specifically?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What does that training look like?

23 A As in to?

24 Q Did you attend a specific criminal interdiction
25 training, or for example, did the Sheriff's Office

176

1 conduct a criminal interdiction training?

2 A Yes. I've gone to interdiction training
3 courses, from several different agencies. And I've also
4 done ride-alongs with other form groups.

5 Q Other what was that?

6 A Form groups, like other I guess you'd say task
7 force.

8 Q In the Sheriff's Office or other entities?

9 A Other entities throughout Texas.

10 Q Okay. So let's break that down then. What
11 kind of courses are interdiction courses?

12 A Well, usually they're identified as some type
13 of -- it will say interdiction on it somehow or they'll
14 identify it as like concealment courses. They call it
15 traps. So basically it's another way of saying
16 concealment.

17 They'll also identify as, for lack of a better
18 understanding, behavior, deceptive behavior courses.

19 I've attended search warrant courses, narcotics search
20 warrant courses.

21 Q Okay.

22 A So I've attended several, quite a few courses.

23 And also such things as human trafficking, narcotics
24 trafficking, things of that nature.

25 Q Okay. And these ride-alongs that you have
177

1 talked about, who have you done ride-alongs with?

2 A One company was the Attorney General's
3 investigators, I'm sorry, not Attorney General, D.A.'s
4 office, District Attorney investigators out by Odessa,
5 Texas. I can't remember the name of the County that they
6 work for, but they have a task force out there. We rode,
7 I believe, four or five days with them.

8 And then they have a training program, a
9 training company called HITS.

10 Q HI?

11 A TS.

12 Q TS?

13 A They're primarily highway. And then I also
14 rode out with, before Deputy Babb passed to the other
15 unit, we went out with a group out of Tyler, Texas.

16 Q Okay.

17 A I believe it was Collin County and Smith
18 County, Texas.

19 Q And in general during these training sessions,
20 what would you say were the best practices that you took

21 away from these training sessions?

22 A Just how to identify possible behaviors and,
23 you know, watching them do the interviews, watch them how
24 they, how they conduct themselves.

25 Q Uh-huh.

178

1 A What questions -- what types of questions to
2 ask, what to, what kind of -- what to look for, what we
3 can typically associate with trafficking, things of that
4 nature.

5 Q Okay. Break that down for me. Like what kind
6 of behaviors are you looking for, are you taught to look
7 for?

8 A Nervousness, how they react to certain
9 questions, what's their responses to certain things, look
10 for deceptive behaviors, things of that nature.

11 Q Okay. And how do you tell what is normal
12 nervousness versus interacting with police nervousness?

13 A Well, everybody's nervous when you interact
14 with law enforcement. That's something that we can, I
15 can honestly say that -- and I address it nowadays more
16 on my body camera. I see somebody like when they hand me
17 their license and they're shaking like a leaf, to the
18 point where I've seen the card almost vibrate. I say
19 hey, are you okay? I know I'm a police officer, but you
20 know, I know everybody's nervous around us, but I mean
21 it's okay. It's a traffic stop. I try to do my best to

22 de-escalate the situation, make light of the situation.

23 Because sometimes people are just nervous and it happens.

24 But I also look at what's their reaction.

25 I had one did the same thing, he kept looking
179

1 back, kept looking back, kept looking back, ended up

2 finding an ounce of spice and 6 grand of drug money in

3 the car. So that was just on behavior alone.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Another one I had that was recently this year,

6 a guy I asked him a question of when, and he looks at his

7 car, looks back at me and says what. There's nothing in

8 the car. I said I didn't ask what, I asked when. And he

9 challenged it, and we went from there. I ended up

10 finding 18 grand in money and a gun and some vape

11 cartridges.

12 Q Sure.

13 A So those are just behavior. Nervousness itself

14 could be anything. But I have to be, you have to be able

15 to articulate what it is they're doing that makes it --

16 but I also just look at it as I don't base anything off

17 of just nervousness. I look at it I'm going to ask

18 baseline questions for you, I'm going to figure out how

19 you respond to certain things. Then I'm going to ask

20 some hard questions, like hey, is there anything in the

21 car I should know about, you know, because you're still

22 kind of nervous. You know, I've kind of let you know,

23 like hey, this is okay, you know.

24 And then I'll just see how they respond to
25 certain questions. I've seen audible tone changes. I've
180

1 seen people cry. I've seen people just, just continue to
2 shake. I had one dude on a hot day just start shivering
3 so and that's typically not normal.

4 Q So how do you tell what's not normal versus
5 what's idiosyncratic for a particular person. I've give
6 you an example. I have really dry eyes, especially when
7 I'm getting tired at the end of the day I start to blink
8 a lot. So how do you tell whether that's just my unique
9 personality tendencies or body versus, you know,
10 something that is a sign of guilt?

11 A I ask questions. Again, I don't just base it
12 on just like your body behavior. I also base it on how
13 you were responding to certain questions. I listen to
14 the interview.

15 Again, that goes back to am I going to search
16 this vehicle or not. Is it just something that I need to
17 go with or are they just really that nervous, had they
18 really that way. And if they're not, and I don't see any
19 reason to go further with it, here is a warning or here's
20 a citation, and let them on their way.

21 Q Okay. So that makes me ask a question, like
22 what prompts you to end the stop? Are there certain
23 responses or answers that you get that you say, okay, I'm
24 done here?

25 A Yes. Again for me, it goes mostly by behavior.

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1 When it came to certain, like the gentleman with the
2 money this year, him looking at his vehicle, looking back
3 at me. I had already knew that there was an odor of
4 marijuana in the vehicle, but again, it goes back to
5 training, knowledge and experience of what I've seen. It
6 could be again you stop ten cars in a day, that one car,
7 car Number 8 might be the car that might have the illegal
8 substance, illegal contraband in it. And again, I do all
9 that. But it's just training and experience over time.

10 Q Okay. So you just talked a little bit about
11 doing ten stops in a day. About how many stops would you
12 say that you do when you're working as a criminal
13 interdiction officer during a day?

14 A I couldn't tell you offhand. I've done one
15 stop and I've gotten narcotics on it of it. I've done
16 ten, fifteen stops and got nothing.

17 Q Okay. And earlier today we talked a little bit
18 about how long a traffic stop generally runs when you
19 were a patrol deputy, 10 to 15 minutes; is that correct?

20 A It could be, yes.

21 Q So in general, a traffic stop without anything
22 untoward or suspicious, when you were a patrol deputy,
23 was approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

24 A Yes.

25 Q And when you're working as a criminal

182

1 interdiction officer, what would you say the average

2 traffic stop runs in terms of duration?

3 A So you mean as in like typical stop, as in

4 no --

5 Q Yeah. How long does a typical stop run or last

6 when you're working criminal interdiction?

7 A About the same.

8 Q Okay.

9 A About the same. It really depends on my first

10 interaction with you.

11 Q Okay. And does that first interaction then

12 determine the rest of your interaction? Like if you,

13 if -- and I'll give you an example. Like our first

14 interaction, you've stopped me, pulled me over, and our

15 first interaction is I'm really, really nervous or, you

16 know, I keep stuttering or something along those lines.

17 Does that mean -- at what point do you say, all right,

18 I'm going to continue the stop, or does that

19 automatically raise your flag?

20 A It can raise a flag, but at the same time,

21 that's why I ask further questions into it. And I see

22 how you are with certain questions. And at that point if

23 I feel that there's nothing going on, some people are

24 just nervous, they have traffic warrants. Some people

25 are nervous they don't have a driver's license. And

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1 again, that doesn't mean that, you know, that you're

2 guilty of anything. It just means that you just have

3 some type of behavior that is causing my, catching my
4 attention. So I might ask a few more questions. And if
5 that seems to calm you down a little bit more, I've seen
6 it happen, yeah I'm over here, I don't have a license.
7 Okay. Well, here's a warning. Hey, go, take care of
8 your stuff. Handle your business, and have a nice day.

9 Q Okay. Have you ever heard of the term like
10 behavioral driving?

11 A Yes.

12 Q What does that mean?

13 A Just a reaction to certain things. Like for
14 me, I've seen people just in my mere presence have slowed
15 down, or they -- or not my mere presence, but the
16 presence of a marked vehicle that they can identify is
17 some type of law enforcement vehicle. I've seen people
18 slow down, I've seen people slam on their brakes, on the
19 highway. I've seen people just, I had one incident where
20 I caught a kid with some marijuana and a gun. He
21 basically started moving over lanes, like making unsafe
22 lane changes in front of -- in heavy traffic, and cutting
23 people off. So I would try to move over with him. And
24 to safely make a traffic stop and get away from there.

25 Q Okay. So how do you determine what's

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1 behavioral driving that is a sign of guilt versus, you
2 know, he had to pee and he was trying to get off the
3 highway quickly. How do you determine that?

4 A Well, behavior driving doesn't mean you're
5 guilty it just means you committed a traffic violation.

6 Q Okay.

7 A It could be in my presence. It could be like I
8 said a reaction in the car, some going on inside we don't
9 know, until we actually walk up to that, until we walk up
10 to the window.

11 Q Okay. When you're in your criminal
12 interdiction capacity, do you ever receive a tip to look
13 for a particular vehicle?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. How do you get that tip?

16 A It really depends. Sometimes it can be a phone
17 call. Most -- 90 percent of the time it's always been a
18 phone call or we're on an operation with a task force.

19 Q Okay. Before you had the cell phone from the
20 Sheriff's Office, did other people on a task force or
21 other law enforcement entities know to call your cell
22 phone?

23 A They would get my number through some other
24 people that knew me.

25 Q Okay. So they would call your personal cell
185

1 phone and just let you know what's going on?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. And what kinds of information does a tip
4 usually include?

5 A It can be hey I've got a vehicle coming up from

6 Eagle Pass and it's -- we've been -- I guess you would
7 say for lack of a better term, we've been watching the
8 vehicle. It has ties to possible smuggling. Can you do
9 a traffic stop for us.

10 Q Okay.

11 A Simple as that.

12 Q And based on that information, do you do a task
13 stop?

14 A I go yes. But not on that information. I
15 still have to develop my probable cause to stop the
16 vehicle.

17 Q Okay. And when you have to develop your
18 probable cause to stop the vehicle, what does that mean?

19 A I have to look for a traffic infraction.

20 Q Okay.

21 A Violation of a traffic code.

22 Q Okay. So you get a tip from this other entity
23 to look for this vehicle, and then do you just follow
24 that vehicle until you get a traffic violation? What
25 happens?

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1 A I usually, in my experience, I'll get -- when I
2 get the tip, I'll set up in the area and see if I can
3 spot the vehicle first. Sometimes that vehicle is
4 already gone, it's already gone through. Sometimes you
5 might get lucky and it's pulling up within 2 minutes.
6 But as I said, again, I have to develop my PC. I don't

7 want to stop -- if the car goes 5, 10 miles, and I'll
8 call the agent, or whoever's given me the tip, like hey,
9 this car's gone 5, 10 miles, I don't got nothing on him.
10 Do you still -- how far -- like how -- what is, you know,
11 the reason for this, and what's going on?

12 And I let them explain to me how, you know, if
13 they want it stopped, how bad they want it, or if it's
14 something that they know is for sure going on.

15 Q Sure. And what do you mean by how bad they
16 want it?

17 A So a lot of officers will tell us, hey, we've
18 been watching a vehicle. We know that there's, that
19 they're transporting something. They have been doing
20 their investigation, their research, their homework on
21 the vehicle. And they say we know that it is currently
22 transporting something. But we have a confidential font
23 that's given us the information this is on the way and
24 it's tied to this vehicle. So at that point again we
25 still have to develop the PC to stop the vehicle.

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1 Q Now let's say you've gotten a call, there's
2 high likelihood that this vehicle has some contraband in
3 it. The other agencies really want you to make this
4 stop, have you ever had the experience where you just,
5 you wanted to stop this person but you didn't see a
6 traffic violation happen?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And so what's the longest you have followed a

9 vehicle waiting for a traffic violation?

10 A I would say about 2 or 3 miles and I've called.

11 I would tell them, like hey, what do you, what do you

12 want? I can't get nothing on this vehicle. They're

13 doing everything right. And they'll tell me either stay

14 on it or let it go.

15 Q Okay. And then --

16 A And usually I'll say hey, let's follow it maybe

17 another mile or two, see if anything happens, if not let

18 it go.

19 Q Okay. So in total how long would you say that

20 you would follow that vehicle until you say all right

21 there's no traffic violation here?

22 A For a whisper stop, I give it up to the agent

23 itself.

24 Q I'm sorry, hold on. What's a whisper stop?

25 A Like an intel stop, information, whisper stop

188

1 is the slang term for information stop.

2 Q Okay. So a whisper stop is when you get a tip

3 from someone else.

4 A Yes. Yes.

5 Q Okay. Thanks. And based on this whisper, how

6 long do you give it before you say okay, I'm not doing

7 anything?

8 A I usually give it a few miles and then I'll

9 call, hey, what do you want with this, how do you want

10 it. Like well this is what I see, tell us. Okay I'll
11 give it -- I go I got nothing. I can't, I can't pull it
12 over. You know, how far -- how much more do you want to
13 sit on this, or they'll say all right, they'll tell us
14 hey, just back off, and we'll take over and we'll just go
15 from there.

16 Q Okay. When you're doing criminal interdiction,
17 what would you say are the most common offenses that you
18 stop a car for?

19 A Just moving violations. Mostly movement, but I
20 have seen some equipment violations as well. Again, it's
21 one of those I like to see more, more -- more movement
22 violations, because it's a possible reaction to my
23 presence. But I've also seen, like hey, he's doing this
24 and this while moving, but I also see this is also wrong
25 with the car, like window tint's too dark or the lights

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1 are out on the vehicle, something, something equipment
2 violation. So that way I have, again, it's one of
3 those -- it's multiple violations as the reason for me to
4 stop that vehicle.

5 Q Okay. And would you say -- I mean, how often
6 would you say you stopped someone for speeding while
7 doing criminal interdiction?

8 A Not very often.

9 Q Okay. How often would you stop someone for
10 tailgating?

11 A Tailgating? I would say it depends on like

12 how, how often, how -- are they consisting tailgating or
13 is it just that car in front of them slowed down and they
14 just happen to be stuck behind it.

15 Q Okay.

16 A So I would say not very often.

17 Q So from that it seems like, based on what you
18 just said, if it was just like a minor thing, just
19 slightly getting too close to someone, maybe they stopped
20 fast then they got class and then let it go, you wouldn't
21 stop them for that? You wouldn't consider it enough to
22 stop someone?

23 A I would consider it is enough to stop someone
24 but I also look for that other infraction, what else is
25 going on with this car.

190

1 Q Okay. Earlier today we talked extensively
2 about traffic stops in your patrol deputy role. How do
3 your traffic stops when you're in the criminal
4 interdiction context differ?

5 A They don't.

6 Q Okay.

7 A They're -- it's legitimately the same thing.

8 Q Okay. We talked a little bit about the fact
9 that you didn't have drivers come sit in your passenger's
10 seat until you were doing criminal interdiction earlier
11 today. Is that fair?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And why the change?

14 A It was a new, it was a new, I want to say tool,
15 a new type of way of doing it that Deputy Babb had shown
16 me that I had seen, I had also seen with other
17 instructors through courses I had taken. As a patrol
18 man, we never did it. Because some of the supervisors
19 that have never done that kind of work, kind of, they
20 frown upon it, because they don't, they're not trained or
21 versed in it.

22 What me and Deputy Babb started doing, because
23 Deputy Babb is kind of the one who trained me up on it a
24 little bit, I saw a little bit more benefits to it as
25 well. Safety, plus being on the highway. And then also
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1 when you're on the highway, you don't feel like you're
2 shouting at somebody with all the cars passing by. So
3 it's more of a one, professional, Number two, it's a
4 safety thing. So they'll sit in the front. And it's
5 their option. We advise them you can have a seat in the
6 front. If they say no, it's a no. It's not something
7 they have to do.

8 Q Okay. I want to take a couple of steps back.
9 You said the patrol supervisors kind of frowned upon it.
10 What did you mean by that?

11 A Because we have some supervisors that were
12 never patrolmen. They came, they went to the courthouse,
13 worked at the courthouse, then tested, became
14 investigators and then patrolmen supervisors. Then you

15 had some that ran traffic, never were proactive, just
16 answered calls, became investigators, became supervisors.
17 So it really depends on the route of each supervisor's --

18 Q And I get that. But what do you mean by a
19 supervisor frowned -- why would a supervisor frown upon
20 the idea of having a driver sit in your passenger's seat?

21 A Officer safety issue. Because when they sit on
22 the right side, if you're a right-handed shooter, that
23 person can reach for your firearm, if they -- and in the
24 case of interdiction, it has happened. They have shown
25 videos of troopers or officers or deputies fighting with
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1 people that are, I guess they're, they know they're about
2 to get in trouble, possibility they're going to get in
3 trouble, so they, for lack of a better term, they freak
4 out.

5 Q Yeah. And I mean, I guess I can also see, like
6 you know you became a criminal interdiction officer in
7 2020, the hay day of the pandemic. Butting someone in
8 your enclosed space opens you up to other risks, you
9 know, and you never know what your interaction with them
10 would be. So why, why make the decision to have someone
11 sit in your patrol car with you?

12 A So for me, it was a new way to try something
13 new. I guess, and like there's never a wrong way to eat
14 a Reese's. You know?

15 MR. WINDHAM: Hear hear.

16 MS. HEBERT: Hear hear.

17 A So there really isn't a wrong way to eat a
18 Reese's. So with traffic and police it can be done so
19 many ways.

20 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Okay. You talked a little bit
21 about Deputy Babb training you on that practice. But you
22 started as a criminal interdiction officer long before he
23 did. Seems like you would be the guy teaching him the
24 ropes.

25 A So we, as -- as I've gone to these specialized
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1 units, we learn from each other. Babb had -- has far
2 more training than I ever took when I was a patrolman. I
3 just happened to get lucky and catch the guy, you know,
4 for lack of a better term. I just, I was a crap magnet.
5 I just happened to find that thing. I could -- still to
6 this day, I can find that one person who's going to give
7 me problems, who's going to be, who's going to run, who's
8 going to cause issues. Or I'm going to find the person
9 that has that money or has the dope, who has -- who's
10 doing something illegal. Just happen to be that person
11 that just, it happens to me.

12 Or I'm going to get a flat tire on the highway
13 in a high speed pursuit and my wheel's going to fall off.
14 That's literally the kind of person I am. If you ever
15 see that one person where you have that goofy person
16 stuff happens to, that's me. So -- but like I said, I
17 learn from everybody. I try to learn from senior

18 officers, I try to learn from officers who have more
19 knowledge, per se, in the field, because they've done it.
20 If they -- or they have some type of information on it.

21 Q Okay. I get that. And we also talked a little
22 bit about you said it's the option for someone to come
23 sit in your patrol vehicle. It seems like it's not a --
24 when, you know, it's not a question would you like to
25 come sit with me in my patrol car, but it seems more of a
194

1 guided direction. Is that fair?

2 A I, whenever I instruct people, like hey I'm
3 going to have you sit in my patrol vehicle. That's kind
4 of guided direction. They have the option I don't feel
5 comfortable doing that. Fine you don't have to. We can
6 do it out here. And unfortunately if it's on the highway
7 we're going to shout at each other. Not intentionally,
8 but just the way the volume is.

9 Q Okay. And have you had anyone say no?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Like no -- what percentage of folks would you
12 say say no, I'm not going to get in your patrol vehicle?

13 A I would say out of the whole time -- I used to
14 do that practice. I haven't done it in a while. I would
15 say maybe two or three people.

16 Q Okay. And then when folks refuse to get in the
17 patrol vehicle with you, what happened?

18 A I continued the interview out there.

19 Q Did you consider that suspicious when they said

20 no?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. Has anyone ever talked to you about the

23 decision to have folks come sit in your patrol vehicle?

24 And by that I mean has any supervisor said, hey, Deputy

25 Gereb, this is fine, you can continue to do this, or you

195

1 should stop doing this?

2 A No.

3 Q Okay. So we talked earlier in the traffic, or

4 in the patrol deputy role about calling for a canine and

5 searches and things like that. How often would you say

6 you call for a canine unit in the, when you're working in

7 the criminal interdiction?

8 A I would say probably maybe 1 percent of the

9 time.

10 Q Only 1 percent of the traffic stops?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. What would cause you -- what causes you

13 to call for a canine unit?

14 A It really depends on the interview, how, how,

15 again, how is the person acting, how is their behavior,

16 what's their reaction to certain questions.

17 If I feel like there's something that they,

18 that they, you know, deny consent, if I feel -- if I have

19 reasonable suspicion to go for the vehicle, then I just

20 ask for consent. And again, it all depends on how their

21 reaction and behavior is towards my interview questions.

22 Q Okay. And what do you mean by reasonable
23 suspicion to go for the vehicle. Can you explain to me
24 what that really means?

25 A So reasonable suspicion, any suspicion for the
196

1 vehicle, right, so you want to search the vehicle.

2 Q Okay.

3 A But you still have to have probable cause to
4 enter it.

5 Q Okay.

6 A So if I have the reasonable suspicion that
7 somebody, that this driver is in the commission of
8 something currently, and they're telling me no, but their
9 behavior is not -- their behavior and reactions to my
10 questions are not -- are still raising red flags, then I
11 will request a canine. And I only ask once.

12 Q Only ask once? Excuse me?

13 A If I ask you for consent to search the
14 vehicle -- if they ask me to clarify, I'll clarify what I
15 mean. And if they don't give me a clear answer, I tell
16 them it's either a yes or a no. And I know once they
17 tell me their answer then I'll go from there.

18 Q Do you provide any kind of warning or context
19 when you're asking for a consent to search?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What do you say?

22 A So I'm asking to search from bumper to bumper,
23 top, bottom, any concealed compartments, any
24 compartments, any bags, backpacks, any purses, glove
25 compartments, center consoles, anything under the car,
197

1 you know, in the engine bay, trunk. I'll name all those
2 things off. And if they say yes, nod their head yes,
3 then I'll go from there.

4 Q Okay. When you do call for a canine, is one
5 always available when you're working for criminal
6 interdiction?

7 A No.

8 Q Okay. Have you had a call for a canine while
9 working criminal interdiction where the canine was not
10 available?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And what happened after that?

13 A So I will go and give them the warning or
14 citation and I'll cut them loose. And based on, on
15 training, knowledge and experience, they're going to --
16 eventually they're going to get caught, if in fact they
17 are indeed involved in some type of criminal activity.

18 Q Okay. And if the canine is able to come and
19 they do the sniff, how often would you say that the
20 canine alerts, in your criminal interdiction experience?

21 A In my criminal interdiction experience? I
22 think it's only been a couple of times they haven't
23 alerted.

24 Q Have not?

25 A Have not alerted.

198

1 Q So the vast majority of the time the canine

2 will alert?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Would you say -- could you give me an estimate

5 on percentage?

6 A Well --

7 MR. FRIGERIO: Objection, form.

8 A It's quite a -- it's quite a bit of times.

9 I --

10 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Okay. If you don't know,

11 that's fine.

12 A I really don't know.

13 Q Sure. Your other answer is fine.

14 Can you explain to me what a dog alert looks

15 like? And if you don't know, that's fine. I know you're

16 not a canine expert. I'm just asking, like you've

17 obviously seen a bunch of canine sniffs now. What does a

18 canine alert look like?

19 A The dog indicates to its handler that -- it

20 does some type of movement the most common one I've seen

21 is sitting.

22 Q Okay. So if the dog sits, in your experience,

23 that's an indicator?

24 A That's up to the handler.

25 Q Okay.

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1 A I let the handler -- I've seen it, and I let
2 the handler explain to me if it was indeed, in fact an
3 alert, or if it was just the dog, I guess you could say
4 the dog being, giving them some type of attitude.

5 Q Being a dog?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Okay. Yeah. So, you know, you -- sounds like
8 from what I'm understanding you to say, and correct me if
9 I'm -- please correct me if I'm wrong -- you rely on the
10 handler to tell you if it's just a dog being a dog or the
11 dog's actually alerted?

12 A Yes. Because I have seen that the dog give,
13 not necessarily a false alerts, but kind of give their
14 handler attitude, and they're being I guess not a good
15 dog. And so the handler has to regain control of the
16 dog. And I rely on that handler because that handler
17 knows that animal. And since the handler knows the
18 animal, he's going to be able to tell me yes indeed that
19 was an alert or no indeed that was not an alert.

20 Q Okay. When you say like giving the handler
21 attitude, help me unpack that because I automatically
22 think of my toddler that gives me attitude and the
23 attitude is very clear?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q But I have no idea what attitude from a canine

200

1 unit dog would look like.

2 A So I'll go back to the guy I had earlier this
3 year. It was a good alert obviously. The dog alerted.
4 Pretty much it leaned up on the car and he would look at
5 the car, look at his handler, look at the car, look at
6 his handler. And when the handler would try to pull him
7 away, the dog would not move. It was straight up
8 fighting him, like it's here, you know, and he's looking
9 at him like, you know, like hey stupid how much more --
10 that's exactly the way he looks at him. That dog I
11 primarily work with a lot.

12 Q What's that dog's name?

13 A Maximus.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And that dog, I work with that dog a lot. And
16 literally, since I started interdiction, I've worked with
17 that dog quite a few times.

18 Q And what do you see with this dog? Does this
19 dog have attitude problems?

20 A No. No. He just, I've seen him with two
21 different handlers.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And I've seen how he reacts to each handler.
24 And he usually gives a good clear -- he gives a good
25 Clear Alert.

1 Q Okay.

2 A If he's got something, it's there, and the dog

3 is trained.

4 Q And what does an alert look like in that
5 context?

6 A For him, it's sitting.

7 Q Okay.

8 A It's always been sitting. That's all I've
9 known him to do is sit.

10 Q Okay. How often would you say that when you do
11 a canine sniff and they alert you find no contraband at
12 all?

13 A I couldn't tell you offhand. There have been
14 times that it has happened, and it could be that the
15 person had smoked, say, marijuana, and they had residue
16 in the car. That, that does happen.

17 Q But how would you know if there was residue in
18 the car if -- I guess my question is, if the dog alerts
19 and you don't find anything in the car, how do you know
20 whether there was ever anything in the car?

21 A It could be residue as in like the odor, an
22 odor residue. It could be chrome, it could be anything.
23 It could be something, the person's clothes are stained
24 with an odor of marijuana.

25 Q Okay.

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1 A So it could -- I literally had people that
2 never smoked in their vehicle, never smoked in their car,
3 but they just smoked at home and it stuck on their

4 clothes and now you smell marijuana in their vehicle.

5 Q Obviously that's you, you smelling them when
6 they approach. But do you have any indication that when
7 you search a car following a dog alert, that there
8 actually was a trace amount of something there? How do
9 you identify that?

10 A What do you mean, as if there was any type of
11 narcotics?

12 Q Yeah. I mean I guess the, taking it a step
13 back, how do you know an alert wasn't just wrong?

14 A Well, that's for us to go through and -- again,
15 it's up to the handler. I go off the handler tells me.

16 Q Okay. And do you ever say something to the
17 handler to the effect of hey that doesn't really seem
18 like an alert to me, or I don't think we should search
19 based on that alert?

20 A No, because I don't know, I don't know what the
21 handler is -- again, I'm not a canine expert, so I rely
22 on his expertise.

23 Q Okay. So if the handler tells you Deputy
24 Gereb, that's an alert, you're not going to question
25 that?

203

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. I think I'd like to talk about the stop
3 that we're here for today.

4 A Yes.

5 Q For Alek Schott. And we talked a little bit

6 about it before. It happened on March 16, 2022. And I'd
7 like to just understand what happened for you on that
8 particular day. On March 16th, 2022, what was your
9 position?

10 A I was doing criminal interdiction. I was --
11 Deputy Babb was doing a search. So --

12 Q And we'll get to some of those specifics?

13 A Okay.

14 Q I want to just start with some of the
15 preliminary stuff. And on March 16th, 2022, who was your
16 supervisor that day during your patrolling?

17 A Sergeant Gamboa.

18 Q Okay. And what time did you come on duty on
19 March 16th, do you remember?

20 A I don't remember. I think we were either 8:00
21 to 4:00 or 9:00 to 5:00. I don't remember offhand.

22 Q Okay. Did you have a particular assignment on
23 March 16th, 2022, an area to cover for role to fulfill?

24 A I don't recall. I know we were hitting IH 35
25 South.

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1 Q Okay. And as far as you remember on March
2 16th, 2022, was that an ordinary workday or was there
3 anything that stuck out in your mind about that day?

4 A No.

5 Q No, it was not an ordinary day or --

6 A Oh, I'm sorry. It was an ordinary day.

7 Nothing stuck out.

8 Q Okay. And there are two offenses that I think
9 it would be better, it would be helpful to understand for
10 the stop for Alek Schott. Based on your prior work
11 enforcing traffic violations, what are the requirements
12 for failure to maintain a lane?

13 A You're not maintaining a lane, you're swerving
14 either onto the shoulder, crossing the traffic lane
15 divider or they call it the fog line or you're going into
16 another lane which you're crossing over the broken stripe
17 white lines, or double white lines, double solid yellow
18 line, whatever is dividing that lane and I guess
19 designating that to be a lane, if you can't maintain it,
20 you're going over, to either left or right. As long as
21 you're -- if you're over, you're over.

22 Q Okay. So if, you know, you go over once,
23 slightly, is that failure to maintain your lane?

24 A It depends how far you go over.

25 Q Okay. So if you go out of your lane one time,
205

1 that could be failure to maintain your lane if what
2 happens?

3 A If you go over the line like you -- I'm sorry,
4 can you rephrase.

5 Q Yeah, yeah. I asked you if you go over the
6 line, if that could be failure to maintain your lane, and
7 you said it could be. So I'm asking you, when could it
8 be versus when couldn't it be?

9 A Okay. So simply touching the line doesn't
10 constitute failure to maintain lane.

11 Q Uh-huh?

12 A Going over the line as not maintaining that
13 lane.

14 Q Okay. So simply touching the line is not
15 enough?

16 A No, it's not.

17 Q Okay. And how do you, how do you decide
18 whether to pull someone over for failure to maintain a
19 lane versus just let them go? And by that I mean like I
20 can see there's just a slight, go outside of a lane then
21 they get back in their lane and they're fine. So how do
22 you make a decision whether it's enough to stop someone?
23 You know, the other extreme is someone's constantly
24 swerving in and out of their lane, that seems pretty
25 clear. So somewhere between those two examples, how do
206

1 you make the decision, where do you decide? Is it all
2 the way, as soon as you cross the line, I'm going to pull
3 you over for failure to maintain a lane, or is there
4 somewhere in the middle?

5 A It's really officer's discretion.

6 Q Okay.

7 A So it could be one time, it could be five
8 times.

9 Q Sure.

10 A It really is on the individual officer's

11 discretion.

12 Q And how do you evaluate the failure to maintain

13 a lane? It seems like to me the easiest way to tell if

14 someone's failing to maintain their lane is to be driving

15 behind them and you see exactly where their wheels are.

16 Is that fair?

17 A You can see that, or you can see it if you're

18 stationary.

19 Q Okay.

20 A I had times where I've seen them when I was

21 stationary, seen people cross over the lines. I've seen

22 times when I'm moving they cross over the line.

23 Q So tell me about when you're stationary.

24 Because like give me an example of a time where you're

25 stationary and you saw someone, failure to maintain the

207

1 lane?

2 A So 35 South, I've been on the side of the

3 highway or in the medians where they have that emergency

4 turn around and I can see someone just cross, an

5 18-wheeler, somebody, their vehicle crosses over the line

6 and goes back over.

7 Q Seems like it might be difficult to see that

8 given the rate of speed from parked on the side of the

9 road. How, just like how do you see it? Are you looking

10 at the front wheels? Are you looking at the back wheels?

11 What are you looking at to gauge where they are in the

12 lines?

13 A The wheels. The wheels typically carry the
14 car, so it's, if you see the wheel go over, you're seeing
15 the bumpers go over.

16 Q Okay. And I'd like to learn more about your
17 experience with the stop of Alek Schott. At some point
18 during that stop you arrived to help assist Deputy Babb;
19 is that right?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q I think it would be helpful here, Daniel, to
22 pull up the --

23 A We don't need this any more, right?

24 Q No.

25 A Okay. I just want to make sure.
208

1 MS. HEBERT: Sorry. I apologize. Let's take a
2 brief bathroom break while we do the setup.

3 THE REPORTER: Okay. We're off the record.

4 (Recess from 2:20 p.m. to 2:29 p.m.)

5 THE REPORTER: We are back on the record.

6 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Before we get started here, I
7 just want to clean up a couple of other things. How do
8 you know what the mission of the criminal interdiction
9 unit is?

10 A What do you mean?

11 Q How do you know what the purpose is? Have you
12 seen any documents or has anyone ever said to you Deputy

13 Gereb, this is our mission critical?

14 A No, not -- not necessarily anything written on

15 paper or anything in -- that has been specifically said.

16 But we've been told that we have multiple roles. But our

17 primary thing is we're going to try to knock down

18 smuggling. Because typically that's what interdictions

19 do. They're involved in any type of smuggling.

20 Q Smuggling?

21 A Of contraband. Contraband, narcotics, guns,

22 money, humans, anything.

23 Q And do you get emails from Sergeant Gamboa

24 about criminal interdiction?

25 A Normally, no. If I have a question for him,
209

1 I'll call him.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Or he'll call me. We'll -- we try to get

4 things done as easy as possible.

5 Q Okay. And you talked a little bit about

6 smelling marijuana. Do you know how to smell the

7 difference between hemp and marijuana?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. Do they smell the same or do you just

10 not know?

11 A They usually smell the same.

12 Q Okay. We talked a little bit about the failure

13 to maintain a lane and the wheels, and you looking for

14 where the wheels are. What happens if you can't see the

15 wheels? Does that mean can't see a failure to maintain a

16 lane?

17 A So you can -- if -- you can see a vehicle right

18 under the vehicle, you can see the tires, you can see the

19 gap between the car and the ground. Okay? And you can

20 see those front wheels, and then sometimes too the car

21 itself you just see that front bumper go over the line,

22 and that's over the line.

23 Q Okay. So help me break that down. If you

24 can't see the wheels, you look to what?

25 A I look to the bumper, and I, I gauge, look
210

1 down, and still look for that front wheel, wherever it's

2 going.

3 Q Okay.

4 A So if I can't see the wheel, then it's not --

5 again, I don't see the bumper, I don't see anything

6 that's actually physically noticeably crossing over the

7 line, then I don't, I don't look for it. I don't -- I

8 would see if there's anything else going on with the car,

9 but other than that I won't look for that.

10 Q Let me just clarify that because it got a

11 little confusing. If you don't see the wheels or the

12 bumper going over the line, you won't make the stop for

13 failure to maintain?

14 A No.

15 Q Is that what I --

16 A Yes.

17 Q -- understand you correctly?

18 And if you can see the wheels and the bumper

19 but you can't see the line, does that matter?

20 A What do you mean, like if the car is on the

21 line.

22 Q No. If you can see like let's say you're, I

23 can imagine the situation where you're far enough away

24 that you can see the car?

25 A Yeah.

211

1 Q You can see the bumper, you can see the wheels,

2 but you have no idea where the car is in relation to the

3 lines, besides he's on the road. Is that fair?

4 A No, because you're supposed to see the line.

5 That's what -- that's what divides the marks.

6 Q For sure?

7 A And the unit.

8 Q I'll take a couple steps back. Let's say

9 you're parked somewhere, you're stationary?

10 A Okay.

11 Q You're in your patrol vehicle. Let's say

12 you've got the highway, the grass median strip, the

13 access road, you're over here access road maybe you're at

14 Chili's in the parking lot. The highway's over here.

15 You can see the cars over here running on the highway?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q But you can't see the lines from all the way

18 over there. Would you be able to decide whether someone
19 had failed to maintain a lane, without seeing the lines?

20 A Well, no. You've got to be able to see it.

21 Q Okay. So you have to be able to see the lines
22 to be able to tell if the car has failed to maintain a
23 lane. Is that fair?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. And you don't -- you were telling me you
212

1 don't have to be able to see the wheels to tell if a car
2 failed to maintain the lanes. You can do it based on the
3 bumper?

4 A Well, you can see that the car is going over
5 the line. If the car is over the line, it's over the
6 line.

7 Q Sure?

8 A And that's -- that's usually because it's
9 failing to maintain a line.

10 Q Okay.

11 A I, in my, the way I personally use that
12 discretion is I like a clear offense. I like a clear and
13 visible offense.

14 Q Sure.

15 A I don't like to do questionable stuff. And
16 that's just me.

17 Q Yeah. And does that mean that you know other
18 officers are okay with a little more questionable items?

19 MR. FRIGERIO: Objection, form.

20 A I don't -- I don't -- I don't know. I don't
21 speak to them, for them.

22 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Sure?

23 A I speak for myself as far as how I like to do
24 things.

25 Q Sure. All right. I'd like to take a little
213

1 bit, a look at some footage here. And we just, we talked
2 about the fact that earlier -- earlier today we talked
3 about the fact that on March 16th, 2022, you at some
4 point arrived to assist Deputy Babb with a stop.

5 Let's -- let's watch this footage. And we're
6 going to mark this as Exhibit 3, I think is our number.

7 MS. HEBERT: Okay. Let's watch from the
8 beginning to about 33 seconds, if that's okay, Daniel.

9 (Video playing.)

10 MS. HEBERT: Okay. That's good.

11 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Do you recognize this footage?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What is it?

14 A My recording of my body cam.

15 Q Was this the recording of your body cam from
16 March 16, 2022?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q In this footage, in the clip we just watched,
19 it seems you arrived to the place on I-35 where Deputy
20 Babb stopped Alek Schott. Is that your understanding of

21 what was happening in this part of the video and your

22 recollection correct?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Okay. Let's look at the -- there's some

25 numbers up in the right-hand corner of the screen. The

214

1 first number at the very stop, 2022-03-16, that seems

2 like the date to me. Is that correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What is the next number?

5 A I believe that's going to be Zulu time.

6 Q Zulu time?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Tell me what Zulu time is?

9 A It's the part of the world where that time is

10 at.

11 Q Okay.

12 A It's -- so I recently learned that.

13 Q Yeah.

14 A I recently learned that because I had no idea.

15 I thought the cameras were just off on the time. It's

16 Zulu time. And I'm not familiar where, which, I know

17 there's -- because I used to know this because when I was

18 military they taught us this. So that's what they call

19 Zulu time. So it's a particular part of the world where

20 that's at.

21 Q Okay. So that -- maybe everybody else already

22 knows this. But so that's a particular time stamp. And

23 it is, in your experience, is that time stamp then

24 accurate based on Zulu time?

25 A I don't know. I don't know Zulu time as far as
215

1 that.

2 Q Okay. So -- how do you, how -- do we know how

3 much the Central Time is off of Zulu time? Like what

4 time is that in central standard time?

5 A Central standard, it would be 5:05 p.m.

6 MR. FRIGERIO: It's just military time.

7 A Yeah, that would be --

8 Q (By Ms. Hebert) So this would be 5:05 p.m.?

9 A That's what I -- yes.

10 Q Okay. And was this date, are we sure that's

11 right, because this stop doesn't seem like it was at 5:00

12 p.m.?

13 A No, that's -- I don't think that it's timed

14 here.

15 Q Okay.

16 A I believe that the time is -- it fixes when it

17 gets uploaded so it's not that.

18 Q Okay. Maybe my question was unclear. If

19 that's, if that's military time or that's 5:00 p.m. Zulu

20 time, what time is that here? Do we know?

21 A Don't know.

22 Q Do you know what time that is Central Time?

23 A Time? No.

24 Q Okay. That's what I was trying to sort out,
25 how it matched up.

216

1 A Okay.

2 Q I want to go back a minute. Before you arrived
3 to assist Deputy Babb, how did you learn that Deputy Babb
4 needed assistance?

5 A He didn't necessarily ask for assistance. I
6 just thought would show up see if he needed help.

7 Q Okay. So what prompted you to make that
8 decision?

9 A I don't recall. Usually it's if I hear
10 someone's doing a search and they're, especially them
11 being on 35, I'll show up anyway just for the assistance
12 of at least traffic control, to help put -- because that
13 way they're not going to get hit by an 18-wheeler.

14 Q So if you see someone -- if you see another
15 officer made a stop on 35, are you going to go assist
16 them?

17 A If I'm available, yes.

18 Q Okay. Seems like there are a lot of stops on
19 35. Does that mean that ordinarily you would go assist
20 every time there was a stop if you were available?

21 A No. I wouldn't assist all the time. But if
22 I'm available, I'm nearby, I'll go make a stop.

23 Q Okay. And what would you consider nearby?

24 A A few miles. Five, maybe ten miles.

25 Q Okay.

217

1 A It doesn't take -- on 35, it doesn't take that

2 long to get there.

3 Q If location records from the Sheriff's Office

4 indicated that you were downtown near East Chavez and

5 South Flores Street, would you have any reason to think

6 you were at a different spot?

7 A As in to correlation where he was located?

8 Q Yeah. So if the location records from the

9 Sheriff's Office on March 16th, 2022, said that you were,

10 before you headed south on I-35 at East Cesar Chavez and

11 South Flores would you have any reason to think that

12 wasn't right?

13 A I'm having a hard time understanding what

14 you're meaning.

15 Q Okay. If there are documents that we received

16 from the Sheriff's Office?

17 A Okay.

18 Q That say Deputy Gereb was at this location,

19 which was Chavez and Flores. Do you know approximately

20 where ha is downtown?

21 A Chavez is.

22 Q East-west and crosses Flores.

23 A I'm trying to figure out where the map is at.

24 Yeah. But --

25 Q I think it's near the HEB off --

218

1 A No, that's right there by the courthouse. It's
2 by the parking garage.

3 Q So if the Sheriff's Office said you were in the
4 downtown area, would you have any reason to say that that
5 was not right?

6 A I don't know. I don't know if I had pretrial
7 or court that day.

8 Q Sure.

9 A I don't recall.

10 Q Sure.

11 A But if I was in that area, that means I was
12 typically at court.

13 Q Okay. So you were in the, maybe the Court
14 area. And you don't remember if you were at court
15 beforehand or not?

16 A No.

17 Q Okay. And do you remember how you learned that
18 Deputy Babb had made a traffic stop?

19 A It usually puts on the radio. You know, people
20 communicate -- so if I'm in a certain area, I'll look to
21 see where my partners are at, just to kind of gauge, you
22 know, how far they're out, or where they're nearby or
23 where they're working.

24 Q Okay. So you'll look on the map to see where
25 they are?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q And so you saw maybe the general area, but how

3 did you know that Deputy Babb made a traffic stop?

4 A It will, it will -- so whenever anybody that's
5 either officer I initiated or call comes out a flag pops
6 up or it will say traffic stop or officer initiated and
7 that's usually how we know.

8 Q And did you, you could see that it was Deputy
9 Babb who had made this traffic stop?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Did you drive then to where Deputy Babb had
12 made the traffic stop?

13 A Was I -- I'm trying to understand what timeline
14 you're looking at.

15 Q No I'm just trying to break it down. How did
16 you get there, how did you get to where Deputy Babb was?

17 A Drove there.

18 Q Did you activate your lights?

19 A Yes. When I got there I activated my lights
20 when I was pulling up, for traffic control.

21 Q Okay. So if you activated your lights, does
22 that mean the dash cam started recording?

23 A Yes, it started recording.

24 Q Okay. And to your knowledge, did your dash cam
25 capture any footage of your drive from downtown to

220

1 wherever Deputy Babb was?

2 A Again, I don't recall being downtown.

3 Q Sure.

4 A So I don't know if I, if I was at downtown, if

5 I rolled up to Deputy Babb, I don't know.

6 Q Okay. Well, where --

7 A If we're looking at this video, this was on the

8 northbound side.

9 Q Sure.

10 A So if I'm coming up from there, I had to come

11 from way towards the south to get up to him.

12 Q Sure. But regardless of where you came from,

13 if you activated your lights, you would have dash cam

14 footage from wherever you came from.

15 A It should, yeah.

16 MS. HEBERT: Okay. I think there's another

17 document that might help us, Daniel. I'm sorry to --

18 MR. NELSON: No, you're good.

19 MS. HEBERT: -- disrupt you too. Would you

20 mind pulling up AA? Let's mark that as Exhibit 4.

21 MR. NELSON: I'm going to actually put this one

22 on top. Is that okay?

23 MS. HEBERT: Sure.

24 MR. NELSON: Just where it's not in the way.

25 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Would you take a look at this,

221

1 Deputy Gereb? And ill represent to you that this is a

2 version of the document that we received as Bates labeled

3 169. So we received this from the Sheriff's Office.

4 This is printed to one page so that we can see it, but

5 they gave us to it in an Excel format.

6 And I know it's very small. So if we need to
7 like get a magnifying glass out I'm sure we can figure
8 something out.

9 But I want to skip to there, you see the top
10 where it says the black, there's like a black row at the
11 top?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Can you tell me, do you know what this document
14 is?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay. Then let's skip down to one, two, three,
17 four, five -- no, four. Do you see where it says 5I11?

18 A Yeah.

19 Q And then you see your name next to that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What does 5I11 mean?

22 A My call sign.

23 Q What does the 5 stand for?

24 A I don't know. Typically that's special units.

25 Q Okay. Do you know what the I stands for?

222

1 A India.

2 Q Okay.

3 A They call it India for interdiction.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And then 11 is just a number.

6 Q For 5 interdiction 11?

7 A So 5 India 11.

8 Q So you don't say the I, you say India?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q Okay. So the next one, or two down, 5K 18, you

11 would say 5 what? What do you say for K?

12 A Kilo.

13 Q Kilo. So I get the context now. 5 India 11 is

14 what your call sign is?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And the next line looks like, or going

17 back to where your name is, the next column says 5 India

18 12, and then the next column says Joel Babb. Is that

19 fair?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So does that mean that you contacted Joel Babb?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And is the next column looks like a time stamp

24 of whatever that was sent. Is that fair?

25 A Yes.

223

1 Q And we're going to skip over the message

2 subject. The message text says OMW.

3 A On my way.

4 Q And that means on my way?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. And so reading all of this together does

7 that mean that at 11:32 you sent Deputy Babb a message

8 that you were on your way?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. So at your time that you sent this
11 message, on my way, what did you understand to be
12 happening? Why did you send that message?

13 A I honestly don't recall.

14 Q Okay.

15 A If I was downtown, it could be I'm on my way to
16 the working area.

17 Q Okay.

18 A If it -- if I was -- if it was a search, I was
19 telling him I'm on my way.

20 Q And do you remember if Deputy Babb asked for
21 your assistance?

22 A No, I don't recall if he asked for it or not.

23 Q Is it normal for you, or at the time was it
24 normal for you to just go assist Deputy Babb if you made
25 a traffic stop?

224

1 A Yes.

2 Q And was that, would you say -- how often would
3 you say you went to assist Deputy Babb when you made hey
4 traffic stop?

5 A Well, we assisted each other. The issue was
6 there was only two of us. And we still had to cover each
7 other.

8 Q Okay.

9 A So if something does happen to him, you know, I

10 got to be nearby.

11 Q Sure.

12 A And same thing, vice versa. There are cartels
13 known to go up and down 35 in that area. We -- one of
14 our deputies a few years back got shot at by the Gulf
15 Cartel. So it's not -- even though he might relatively
16 be safe, it's still something we go out there and help
17 out.

18 Q Sure. So does that mean if Deputy Babb made a
19 traffic stop, you were going to be there to assist him in
20 some capacity?

21 A If it needed, if it warranted, yeah.

22 Q Well, I guess how do you tell if it warranted
23 it versus didn't. That's what I'm trying to figure out.
24 Is it all the time that you, when Deputy Babb makes a
25 traffic stop he comes to help you and you --

225

1 A No.

2 Q Or are there times where you have to make a
3 decision?

4 A You have to make a decision. It's determined
5 by -- if he says he's going to do a search, and then I'll
6 come, pull up behind him, and just kind of either let him
7 do his search and I'll just visit for security and
8 conduct traffic control.

9 Q Sure.

10 A Or depending on what, it really depends on what
11 he has.

12 Q Okay. So he would let you know kind of what's
13 going on and then you would make the decision if you
14 needed to go help him?

15 A No. I would just show up and say what do you
16 need.

17 Q Okay. So if Deputy Babb -- let me ask this
18 again. If Deputy Babb made a traffic stop, would you go?

19 A Not all the time.

20 Q And so if it's not all the time, how did you
21 decide to go to where Deputy Babb was or not?

22 A If he was doing a search.

23 Q Okay. And at what point would he say I'm doing
24 a search?

25 A Sometimes he would notify on the radio I am
226

1 doing a, some type of search.

2 Q Okay. So you wouldn't go for a traffic stop,
3 you wouldn't go assist Deputy Babb for a traffic stop
4 where he just pulled someone over for speeding and then
5 let them go.

6 A No, no.

7 Q Okay. You're only going to go assist Deputy
8 Babb if there's a search that's going to be happening.

9 A Yes. But I would also show up too just to
10 check on the status. If he's been on a stop for a little
11 longer than usual.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A I would go over, show up, make sure he's okay,

14 and if he didn't need anything.

15 Q Okay. Sure. Let's will look at another

16 document.

17 MS. HEBERT: Daniel, I'm sorry to --

18 Q (By Ms. Hebert) So let me just ask one more

19 question about this exhibit, and this was Exhibit --

20 A 4.

21 Q 4. Exhibit 4, in the message subject place,

22 the second line, it is -- let's look at the, let's see,

23 one, two, third row. It starts with 5 India 12, Joel

24 Babb, control. And then let's go to the message subject.

25 I see there is a line person check, Hernandez Jeremiah, a
227

1 number true, some more information, and then it says Unit

2 5 India 12 received a hit at location, and then a

3 location location. Did I read that correctly?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q And what does received a hit mean?

6 A Okay, if you see they received a hit,

7 they're -- they received some type of intel, or they ran

8 something and they sent the information back to them.

9 Q Okay. So help me understand. They ran

10 something? They ran a check?

11 A They ran, they possibly ran a check and it

12 alerted to something, like --

13 Q What kind of alert?

14 A It could be anything. Commonly, if I a

15 vehicle, it could be received an alert for, or I guess
16 how you say, like vehicle stolen or not stolen, anything
17 of that nature. Or for just running a vehicle in
18 general.

19 Q Okay.

20 A But this looks like the on board messaging
21 system that runs through our CAD.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A That's what it seems like this is doing.

24 Q So these aren't your CAD logs?

25 A No, no, no. This is --

228

1 Q How would you describe it?

2 A That person to person, that internal message I
3 guess.

4 Q Internal messaging?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay.

7 A So I don't know what this is about.

8 Q Sure.

9 A But looks like he ran it, checked the name.

10 Q Okay. Let's look at another document. Let's
11 look at L. And this will be Exhibit 5. Can you take a
12 look at this document, once Daniel passes it over to you,
13 can you -- once you get a chance to look at it, can you
14 tell me what it is?

15 A It's the incident detail report for the --

16 pretty much the report from the key card.

17 Q Okay. This is where the key card notes?

18 A Yes.

19 Q This is what we were talking about earlier.

20 And is this the report that was generated from those key

21 card notes?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. And just to take a step back for a

24 second, when you have a traffic stop, you have a SPEARS

25 summary, if -- if it's created, like if there's an

229

1 incident?

2 A It's supposed to be always created.

3 Q So you have a traffic stop, you're supposed to

4 have a SPEARS summary?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Will you have an incident detail report?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Any other documents that come with a traffic

9 stop?

10 A It could be a traffic citation, or copy of the

11 citation or warning.

12 Q Okay. So copy of the, some document of the

13 citation, which I think we might have. We can take a

14 look at that in a minute. And then I've seen somewhere

15 like a moving violation document. Does that ring a bell

16 at all?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. So in order, in like the universe of
19 documents for a traffic stop, you would expect there to
20 be three documents, the SPEARS summary, the incident
21 detail report, and the citation, assuming that a citation
22 was issued or a warning was issued?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Anything else that I'm missing?

25 A Not that I can recall. Not on a typical stop.
230

1 Q That's fine. I just wanted to make sure that I
2 was understanding all that.

3 How was the incident detail report created?

4 A So all this is generally from, well, the key
5 card was initiated. So if you look on here, it talks
6 about longitude and latitude. That's, that's where on
7 earth he was at when that was created. So it will tell
8 you the time, who initiated it, what, what location we
9 were at, the disposition of it.

10 Q Okay. So to stop you there then, it seems like
11 what you're telling me then this is automatically
12 created?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And it runs off of data from the patrol
15 vehicle.

16 A Yes.

17 Q Is that all fair?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Okay. Can we start at the top and work our way
20 down? We talked about the title. Data source is data
21 warehouse, I assume that's some sort of database that the
22 Sheriff's Office has. Is that fair?

23 A Yes.

24 Q The incident status closed. Incident number,
25 we would expect the incident number to match whatever the
231

1 incident number is on the SPEARS summary. Is that fair?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. And then if there was a case number, it
4 would be here?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Okay. The incident date was the date we've
7 been talking about, March 16th, 2022. And I see
8 11:15:08. What would that time indicate to you?

9 A The time it was initiated.

10 Q Okay. Initiated. And this next line, the
11 report generated, I see right now in there, in that field
12 is 9/14/2023, 14:05:29. Am I reading that correctly?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q What does that line mean?

15 A That means there was a report generated on that
16 date.

17 Q Okay. So that's when this report was printed
18 out from the data warehouse or downloaded from the data
19 warehouse?

20 A I couldn't tell you.

21 Q Sure.

22 A I don't know.

23 Q Okay. So walking through some of this, I want

24 to look briefly at the time stamps. I'm going to skip to

25 the time stamps here. What does this section of the time

232

1 stamps show you?

2 A Description, phone pick up, first key stroke,

3 in waiting queue, call taken complete, first unit

4 assigned, first unit en route, first unit arrived,

5 closed.

6 Q All right. So what does in waiting queue mean?

7 What does that mean?

8 A I couldn't tell you. I don't know. If it's

9 waiting -- I couldn't tell you offhand.

10 Q Okay.

11 A I don't know.

12 Q Let's go to the section on the right of the

13 same part of the page, elapsed times. At the very

14 bottom, incident duration. I see 1:16:12. Does that

15 mean that the traffic stop lasted an hour and 16 minutes?

16 Do you see what I'm talking about?

17 A Yes. Yes. I believe, yes, that's incident

18 duration.

19 Q Okay. And let's look at resources assigned,

20 which is the next section down from time stamps. Reading

21 here, we looked at earlier you are 5 I 11; is that right?

22 A Why.

23 Q And 5 I 12, who's is that?

24 A That would have been Deputy Babb.

25 Q And then 5 kilo 18, who is that?
233

1 A That's Deputy Molina.

2 Q Okay. And based on this time stamp, it says
3 that you were assigned at 12:22; is that right?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And then you were on, en route immediately,
6 right after you assigned it, 12:22:36; is that right?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And then it looks like at the very end there's
9 like a complete column and seems that the stop was
10 complete for you at 12:22:48.

11 A So I don't --

12 Q Is that right?

13 A Yes. That's what I was looking at. So I don't
14 know if the, when I arrived, if dispatch had assigned me
15 or not.

16 Q Sure.

17 A But I know I assigned myself to the key card.

18 Q Okay. So at some point you got assigned but
19 you don't know exactly when?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And the personnel assigned, the next kind of
22 section, I see that it's got your unit and your names
23 again. What's the number in the parentheses?

24 A That's our -- that's the Bexar County law
25 enforcement, and that's our employee number again.

234

1 Q Okay. So just kind of looking at two documents
2 together, can you look at Exhibit 4? Remember how it
3 said you were on your way?

4 A Yes.

5 Q At 11:32. And then this says you were on your
6 way at 11:22. Why the difference?

7 A You mean 12:22?

8 Q Yes. Sorry. Let me just say that again just
9 so I can be clear. In Exhibit 4 you sent the message
10 that you were on your way at 11:32. And then this
11 document, Exhibit 5, says you were on route at 12:22.
12 Why the difference?

13 A So 12:22, again that could have been when I
14 was -- either I wasn't assigned or I had to reassign
15 myself to the call, because there have been times that
16 you could tell dispatch, hey, I'm on the way to, say like
17 to Deputy Babb, or, and they didn't hear you for whatever
18 reason or they didn't assign you. So you sign just to
19 let them know hey, I was here.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And then also on this one, I don't know where I
22 was at at 11:32.

23 Q Sure.

24 A So at that point, you mentioned I was downtown.

25 I don't know if I was downtown or not. I don't recall
235

1 how that day went.

2 Q Sure. Let's look back at your body camera

3 footage.

4 MS. HEBERT: Daniel, are you ready for that?

5 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Let's watch the same clip again

6 from 0 to 33?

7 MR. WINDHAM: Just what exhibit is this?

8 MS. HEBERT: This is Exhibit 3.

9 MR. WINDHAM: Okay.

10 MS. HEBERT: The time stamp is 0:00 to 0:33.

11 (Video playing.)

12 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Okay. So we just saw you come

13 up -- to recap what we just watched, we saw you come up

14 to where Deputy Babb was on the side of Alek Schott's

15 truck. Is that fair?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And we saw you have a brief exchange with him.

18 And then you walked around to the back of the truck; is

19 that correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q The audio isn't captured of your conversation

22 with Deputy Babb. And is that because you activated your

23 camera, but it wasn't still catching up before it

24 captured audio?

25 A So I had activated my camera yet. Usually, hey

1 what do you need? If you need something then I'll stay
2 and activate my camera and get it going. But it's also a
3 buffering period where it will come back a minute, 30
4 seconds to a minute before you refresh your audio again.

5 Q Okay.

6 A So it will play before you press the button, it
7 will still be recording 30 seconds to a minute
8 beforehand, without audio.

9 Q So it's kind of like it grabs back the last
10 couple of seconds before you pressed the activation
11 button?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q So when we hear the beep, that's when you
14 pressed the activation button?

15 A Yes.

16 Q So you didn't press the activation button when
17 you came up to talk to Deputy Babb?

18 A I don't think I did.

19 Q Sure. No, it's fine. I'm just trying to
20 understand how the camera works.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q So you pressed the activation button when you
23 were about to search the car.

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q I think that we actually have some of that

237

1 conversation captured by Deputy Babb's body camera.

2 MS. HEBERT: Would you mind pulling up that

3 exhibit, Daniel? It would be Exhibit H.

4 MR. NELSON: Yes.

5 MS. HEBERT: And we're going to look at the end

6 of this clip. I think it's about a minute or so. It

7 will be at a minute 51, through to the end. It's a

8 video, Daniel.

9 MR. NELSON: Oh.

10 MS. HEBERT: We're at the video. Exhibit H is

11 a video.

12 MR. NELSON: Okay.

13 MS. HEBERT: It's, I'll show you, this one.

14 MR. NELSON: Babb Body 1?

15 MS. HEBERT: Yes.

16 MR. NELSON: Just for future reference, if you

17 could reference them as that, because they're not

18 listed --

19 MS. HEBERT: Sure.

20 Q (By Ms. Hebert) And we'll watch from minute 51

21 to the end.

22 MS. HEBERT: I've given my colleagues my cold,

23 so sorry.

24 MR. NELSON: 51 minutes?

25 MS. HEBERT: Yeah, minute 51. 51:00 to the
238

1 end. That's fine right there.

2 (Video playing.)

3 MS. HEBERT: Daniel, can you pause it? We need

4 to turn up the volume.

5 MR. WINDHAM: It's right there too. Just turn
6 that up.

7 MS. HEBERT: And we need to go back a little
8 bit.

9 MR. NELSON: That's okay. I can start it over.

10 (Video playing.)

11 MS. HEBERT: Okay. You can stop it there.

12 Q (By Ms. Hebert) From what we just saw it seemed
13 like you came up to Deputy Babb and you had a brief
14 conversation. Is that fair?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And I want to break down that exchange with
17 Deputy Babb. What did you understand Deputy Babb to mean
18 when he said it's one of the vehicles from that thing?

19 A As part of we were getting information.

20 Q I'm sorry, I didn't hear that?

21 A It's part of the task where we were getting
22 information from. They're southern counties and stuff
23 that will send us information that, that vehicles are
24 possibly involved in the smuggling. So again, it's up to
25 us we have to approve and investigate that.

239

1 Q Okay. So from your understanding, you
2 understood Deputy Babb to be saying he got information
3 from somewhere that it was a vehicle that he needed to
4 investigate?

5 A That possibly might be involved in smuggling.

6 Q Okay. And what did you understand Deputy Babb
7 to mean by he was riding tandem?

8 A Usually, when they say they might be riding
9 tandem, meaning that there's more than one vehicle
10 involved. Typically, in the smuggling world, they're --
11 you'll have a scout vehicle, and then you'll have your
12 load vehicle and then you might have another scout
13 vehicle, to see where we're at.

14 Q To see where who is at?

15 A Law enforcement.

16 Q Okay.

17 A So that's typically, it's a pattern of trade.
18 Sometimes they send, they've been known to send bait
19 vehicles to see what we do. They've been sent -- they're
20 doing their homework on us, just as we're doing homework
21 on them.

22 Q Okay. And what did you understand Deputy Babb
23 to mean by he checked out a bunch of places?

24 A On that one, from the video, I don't recall him
25 saying that offhand.

240

1 Q We can watch it again.

2 A No, no from the video I remember. But offhand
3 on the scene I don't remember him saying that. But if
4 he's saying he checked out a bunch of places, it means he
5 either ran Vigilant on him or he checked him through a
6 border crossing. I don't know as to that part.

7 Q Okay. So there was some record that Alek

8 Schott had been a bunch of places?

9 A Yes.

10 Q It seems like I heard you tell Deputy Babb that

11 I was sitting waiting for that white Chevy.

12 A Yes.

13 Q What did you mean by that?

14 A I had also received information about a white

15 truck possibly coming in.

16 Q Okay. Do you remember how you got that

17 information?

18 A I get information the same way Babb did.

19 Q I guess I don't understand, when you say I got

20 that information?

21 A So intel, information from other agencies.

22 Q Does that mean someone called you and said look

23 out for this white Chevy?

24 A It could be a white Chevy, it could be through

25 text message, it could be through many different ways

241

1 they tell us.

2 Q Sure. And you said you were waiting for that

3 white Chevy. Did you have any other information about

4 the vehicle besides that it was a white Chevy?

5 A No. I was doing, I was still doing my homework

6 on it.

7 Q Sure.

8 A And that's why I was -- well, I had decided to

9 come help Babb instead. I know that I was still waiting
10 to see if it passed because I know it hadn't passed us at
11 that time. So I was still waiting so I figured I would
12 come help out instead.

13 Q Okay. Did Deputy Babb already know what you
14 were talking about then when you said that white Chevy?

15 A I don't know.

16 Q Okay. Let's go back to your body camera
17 footage. And that is Exhibit 3.

18 MS. HEBERT: And Daniel, we'll skip to 2:50.

19 And we'll watch from 2:50 to 3:40.

20 (Video playing.)

21 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Okay. So we saw you searching,
22 in that video, just to recap, we saw you searching the
23 back of Alek's truck some. Is that fair?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And then we saw you pull out a cell phone. Is
242

1 that fair?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And we saw you use that cell phone in some
4 capacity, whether it was to text or check messages?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Was this your personal cell phone at the time?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q And were you asked to provide any text messages
9 or call records from that phone for the day of March

10 16th, 2022?

11 A Yes. I did contact my provider, and they said
12 that it would have to be subpoenaed. I attempted to look
13 for it myself beforehand. But because there's a, I guess
14 it's, I would say archived, or they don't go back that
15 far back to get that information. They couldn't give it
16 to me.

17 Q Okay.

18 A So I did relay that to the attorneys here.

19 Q Sure.

20 A Let them know what was going on.

21 Q Sure. Let's watch another portion of your body
22 cam?

23 MS. HEBERT: 5:40 to 6:36, Daniel.

24 (Video playing.)

25 MS. HEBERT: Okay. You can pause that.

243

1 Thanks, Daniel.

2 Q (By Ms. Hebert) This portion of the footage
3 appeared to show you receiving a call. Is that a fair
4 representation of what we just watched?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Who called you?

7 A I believe a -- he's also a retired deputy.

8 Q What was the name? I'm sorry?

9 A Hector Avila.

10 Q Okay.

11 A He called for an assist, I believe it was an

12 ATL assist.

13 Q ATL is what?

14 A Attempt to locate.

15 Q Okay.

16 A He's a part of our intel unit which is also
17 under Sergeant Gamboa. We get calls to help them out
18 with warrants and stuff like that. So I believe he had a
19 warrant that he was looking for and that's what he was
20 calling me for. But we were finishing up with this, and
21 I told him hey, I'll be there. He was kind of giving me
22 a little attitude on the phone so that's why I was like a
23 little annoyed with him.

24 Q That's okay. No judgment here. But you said,
25 what the F, and turned off your body camera. Is that
244

1 accurate?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Why did you turn your body camera off?

4 A I thought we were done.

5 Q Okay.

6 A I thought we were done. I thought I was, you
7 know, hey we're done, I'm going to shoot off that way.

8 Q Sure.

9 A But then as we started again, because Deputy
10 Babb was still continuing on. I was like well, I'm going
11 to stay here till he's done.

12 Q Okay. Then let's look at the other portion of

13 your body camera footage. This will be Gereb body camera

14 2. And this will be Exhibit 6. Did I miss one?

15 THE REPORTER: I think you did.

16 MR. SAENZ: I don't think you named Babb Number

17 1 --

18 MS. HEBERT: Okay. Let's name them -- Babb

19 Number 1 should be 6.

20 MR. NELSON: Correct.

21 MS. HEBERT: Okay. And this -- I stand

22 corrected, this is Gereb Body Camera 2, and this should

23 be Exhibit 7.

24 MR. NELSON: You want me to play the whole

25 thing?

245

1 MS. HEBERT: Let's watch from 0:00 to 1:05.

2 (Video playing.)

3 MS. HEBERT: Actually, Daniel, can you stop

4 right there?

5 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Before we go any further, we're

6 watching the second portion of your camera footage; is

7 that correct?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And we are stopped at 00:46. Who -- who's that

10 on the screen?

11 A The green uniform is Deputy Molina.

12 Q Deputy Molina.

13 MS. HEBERT: Okay. Let's continue on to 1:02.

14 (Video playing.)

15 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Okay. You said I'm trying to
16 watch for another truck right there, I haven't seen it.
17 Are you talking about that white Chevy?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And how did you -- where were you looking for
20 that particular truck?

21 A On 35 coming northbound.

22 Q Okay. And so you said I'm trying to watch for
23 that truck, another truck right now. How were you trying
24 to watch for another truck while you were doing the
25 search?

246

1 A I, if you actually look at my camera, it shows
2 me standing on the side of the highway facing out towards
3 the highway, because I'm looking.

4 Q Oh, so when you're going back, turning from the
5 search out to the highway, you're looking for that white
6 truck?

7 A I'm looking to see if it's passed by. I never
8 found it.

9 Q Okay. Sure. And to be clear, when you're
10 turning to look at the highway, you were looking for a
11 white Chevy?

12 A Well, and I'm looking for officer safety too
13 because some of those cars really do get close to us.

14 Q I entirely understand that. So officer safety
15 aside, when you're turning to look for the car, the truck

16 that you're referring to, you're turning to look for just

17 simply a white Chevy?

18 A Yes.

19 MS. HEBERT: Let's watch another portion of the

20 video. Would you mind playing 2:20 to 2:42, Daniel? And

21 to be abundantly clear, that's 2:20 to 2:42.

22 (Video playing.)

23 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Okay. This portion of the

24 video camera that we just watched captured a brief

25 exchange between you and Deputy Molina; is that correct?

247

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q And you asked, "Where did he alert?" Did I

3 hear that right?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And who were you talking to?

6 A Deputy Molina.

7 Q And what did you mean by that question?

8 A Where did Canine Maximus alert on the vehicle.

9 Q Okay. And Deputy Molina seemed to respond to

10 your question, "Everywhere, because the windows were

11 down." Is that fair?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Okay. What did you understand Deputy Molina's

14 comment to mean?

15 A That because the windows were down, his canine

16 was alerting throughout the areas of the vehicle.

17 Q Okay. And what was your reaction when you

18 heard Deputy Molina's comments that the dog was alerting
19 everywhere?

20 A I don't know if you want to play it back, but
21 usually, "Okay."

22 Q Okay.

23 MS. HEBERT: Let's watch 8:00 to 9:06. That's
24 good, Daniel.

25 (Video playing.)

248

1 MS. HEBERT: That's good. Thanks.

2 Q (By Ms. Hebert) During that clip that we just
3 asked -- or we just watched, you're searching the vehicle
4 with Deputy Babb and Deputy Molina. Is that fair?

5 A Yes.

6 Q At one point we heard that beep beep. Is that
7 what you were talking about earlier?

8 A Yes.

9 Q With the indicator that your body camera is
10 still on?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. Is there a similar indicator for the
13 dash cam? Is there like a beep beep?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q The dash cam is on?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And what's the indicator for the dash cam?

18 A It's a similar beep.

19 Q Just like two beeps beeps?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Or different beep?

22 A No two beeps, same exact ones. Same exact

23 beeps.

24 Q Okay. So you know that your dash cam is

25 working when you hear the beep beeps?

249

1 A Yes.

2 Q We talked about the indicator lights earlier.

3 Have you ever known your dash cam to malfunction?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. When, on the clip that we just watched

6 also, during the clip, you asked Deputy Babb, you don't

7 have your thermometer, right? What is the thermometer.

8 I mean obviously I know what a thermometer is but in this

9 context what do you mean?

10 A So a thermometer can detect different

11 temperatures in the vehicle. If you've got a lifted

12 truck or 18-wheeler, you look at the axle and the axle

13 has a hub which is a big old ball in the middle, best way

14 I can explain it. And you look at one end, and it says

15 250 degrees. You look at the other end and it says 90

16 degrees, there should have similar temperatures. Not --

17 and it usually can be an indicator that they're using the

18 hub to, or somewhere in the vehicle that's not matching

19 normal temperatures.

20 So if you've got a hot car, you know, say this

21 vehicle's been on the highway. High speeds, the
22 vehicle's warm, a lot of parts are hot. But you get a
23 cold spot. Not just like 5, 10 degrees, talking about a
24 significant cold spot, like 100, 200 degrees shorter than
25 what it should be. And that's not really normal.

250

1 Possible indicator that something's going on either the
2 engine is malfunctioning at that part or there might be
3 some type of concealment.

4 Q Okay. That's super helpful. Thank you.

5 And during that clip, we also heard Deputy Babb
6 say we're done. What did you understand Deputy Babb to
7 mean when you said we're done?

8 A Done with the traffic stop.

9 Q The traffic stop is finished?

10 A We're not doing any more.

11 Q And ultimately you, Deputy Babb and Deputy
12 Molina, you didn't find anything in this vehicle, did
13 you?

14 A No.

15 Q And if there was a report indicating that you
16 or other deputies found an illegal substance in Alek
17 Schott's truck, that would be incorrect; is that fair?

18 A Yes. Well, from my, I didn't see nothing, so
19 putting it for myself, I didn't find nothing. And I
20 wasn't told about anything.

21 Q Yeah. And just, just asking based on your

22 personal experience, you didn't see Deputy Babb find

23 anything.

24 A No.

25 Q You didn't see Deputy Molina find anything?

251

1 A No.

2 Q So if there's a report indicating something was

3 found that report would be incorrect?

4 A Yes.

5 MR. FRIGERIO: Objection, form.

6 MS. HEBERT: Let's watch from 9:06 to the end

7 of this clip, Daniel?

8 MR. NELSON: I actually need to move it back.

9 MS. HEBERT: That's fine.

10 MR. NELSON: Okay.

11 (Video playing.)

12 Q (By Ms. Hebert) You told Deputy Babb that Sarge

13 was calling. Who were you referring to?

14 A Gamboa. Sergeant Gamboa.

15 Q Sergeant Pete Gamboa?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Also earlier you called, you said he might go

18 by Pedro?

19 A I think -- I think his legal name is Pedro.

20 Q Okay.

21 A But I've seen his emails say Pete Gamboa, and

22 I've seen Pedro. I'm like, so hey Sarge. That's what I

23 call him now.

24 Q That's fine. I just wanted to check on that
25 from earlier.

252

1 And it sounded like someone else is calling
2 you, sounded like Ivy Love to me?

3 A Avila.

4 Q Avila.

5 A Yes. That was the person that called me
6 earlier in the video.

7 MS. HEBERT: I'd like to look at another
8 document. Let's pull up Exhibit N. This will be marked
9 as Exhibit 8. Is that correct, Daniel?

10 MR. NELSON: Yes.

11 MS. HEBERT: So we're looking at N as in Nancy.

12 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Deputy Gereb, can you take a
13 look at this and let me know when you're ready.

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q What is this document?

16 A SPEARS incident report.

17 Q Let's look down to the involved persons
18 section. Whose name is there?

19 A Mr. Schott.

20 Q Okay. And we've already discussed Mr. Schott
21 is the person who was stopped in this case, correct?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Okay. And so would it be fair if I said that
24 this is SPEARS summary from the traffic stop where Alek

25 Schott was stopped?

253

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q Okay. Let's go through this document. I see

3 here that the case number is blank. That means there was

4 no case number for this incident. Is that fair?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Okay. The source says officer initiated by.

7 Is it normal for that to just have no officer at the end?

8 Is that just one of the options you pick?

9 A That's one of the options.

10 Q Okay. Let's go to the summary section. It

11 says traffic stop with positive canine alert. Did I read

12 that correctly?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q If you and your fellow officers found something

15 in Alek's truck, would this summary have been different?

16 A Possibly. It depends on, on who was writing

17 the summary.

18 Q Let's go to the next page, involved officers.

19 And this report indicates there are three officers

20 involved, and we saw all three of those officers on the

21 video footage. That would be you, Deputy Molina and

22 Deputy Babb. Did I get that right?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q And you're listed as covert operations here.

25 What does that mean?

254

1 A Usually it's, so TAG has two sections, covert
2 and intel. I think they just have us under that for, on
3 paper. But we are under interdiction.

4 Q So as far as I understand what you just said,
5 it means that the criminal interdiction unit is within
6 the covert section?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Okay. But at this time -- and by this time I
9 mean as of March 16th, 2022, were you part of the covert
10 operations?

11 A No. So when TAG came about, interdiction had
12 kind of been transferred from traffic over to -- so when
13 it first -- let me go back. In 2020, we were under
14 training. Then fell under traffic. Then fell under --
15 because Sergeant Gamboa was over the training academy at
16 the time. He was supervisor at the training academy.
17 And then he went -- then when TAG formed, he went over to
18 the TAG intel unit. And pretty much he's, we've been
19 under him every time. So he has, I think it's on paper
20 under covert operations.

21 Q Okay.

22 A But looking at the timeline that this is done,
23 Babb wasn't assigned to the training academy at the time,
24 and neither was Douglas.

25 Q Okay.

255

1 A So --

2 Q So what does that mean?

3 A Oh, just that's when Babb was at the training
4 academy, and this Douglas has started now and she's a
5 sergeant and she's currently over the training academy as
6 supervisor.

7 Q Okay. So let me just take a couple of steps
8 back. When did Babb get assigned to training? Do you
9 know?

10 A I would say -- I want to say it's late 2022.

11 Q Okay. Late 2022. What prompted, as far as you
12 know, Babb to get assigned to training?

13 A That was where he wanted to go. He had prior
14 military experience as an instructor.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A And he had expressed interest to do that. So
17 like okay, go do it, man.

18 Q Okay.

19 A It's your career. That's what I always tell
20 him.

21 Q And he, but Babb wasn't in training when he
22 made the stop of Alek Schott.

23 A No.

24 Q He wasn't a trainer --

25 A No, ma'am.

256

1 Q -- when he made this stop of Alek Schott.

2 Okay. I want to look at another version of
3 this document.

4 MS. HEBERT: Can you pull up M, Daniel? And

5 this will be marked as Exhibit 9.

6 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Let me know when you're ready.

7 A Okay.

8 Q What is this document?

9 A It appears to be redacted information from the
10 Exhibit 8.

11 Q Sure. So, so far as you can tell, same Exhibit
12 8 and Exhibit 9 are the same, just one's redacted?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Okay. Other than the redactions -- other than
15 the redactions, I want to look to the involved persons
16 section, involved officers section. Excuse me. On the
17 next page. And look at the various involved officers.
18 And we'll start with the first line, assisting officer
19 Gereb, you're listed as special enforcement?

20 A Yes, that's what we were under before we
21 went -- I'm still trying to figure out what my role is,
22 where I'm assigned to these days. For some reason
23 interdiction kind of just bounces around. We have
24 multiple sergeants, multiple supervisors. But we fall
25 under primarily Gamboa and we have a new lieutenant. So

257

1 we're trying to figure out, right now we're in a
2 transition phase.

3 Q So I guess the first question I have to ask you
4 is it seems like this document changed. There's two
5 versions of this document, one that lists you as covert

6 operations and one that lists you as special enforcement.

7 Why -- why did the document change?

8 A Couldn't tell you. It could have been how I

9 was inputted in the system.

10 Q Sure.

11 A I don't know. That would be on the admin side.

12 Q That's okay.

13 A This doesn't -- we don't have any input as far

14 as how we're inputted into the RMS system.

15 Q And from what I was understanding to you say a

16 couple of seconds ago, Sergeant Gamboa has been the

17 criminal interdiction guy, and the unit has gone where

18 he's gone is that fair?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q That's one of the reasons why it's been under

21 these different classifications. It's followed him.

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Okay. Let's go back to Exhibit 8, if you don't

24 mind. And let's flip to Page 3. And this looks like one

25 of those general reports we were talking about earlier;

258

1 is that correct?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And based on the top two lines, it looks like

4 this was authored by and entered by Deputy Babb; is that

5 correct?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q When you have a general, a general report for
8 an incident, would you expect all the reasons you've
9 stopped a officer -- or stopped a driver to be in that
10 report?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And would you expect that all the reasons that
13 you decided you could search the vehicle would be in that
14 report?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. Let's flip to the next page. And what
17 is this page?

18 A Supplemental by Deputy Molina.

19 Q To be clear, this is Page 4. So this does this
20 mean that Deputy Molina did a supplemental report?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q And let's flip to the next page. Page 5. What
23 is this page?

24 A Another supplemental report by Deputy Babb.

25 Q So that means Deputy Babb did a supplemental
259

1 report?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And let's flip to the end. Were there any more
4 pages?

5 A No, ma'am.

6 Q Okay. So you didn't provide a reporting to
7 with this incident. Is that fair?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q And why is that?

10 A So at the time of the incident, traffic stops
11 usually assisting officers you can put something in there
12 or not. They've clarified it since then that we needed
13 to have our input. But at this time we, if you were just
14 an assisting officer, you didn't need to provide a
15 report.

16 Also, because this was, at the time was a
17 traffic stop, it was a warning issued, that there was no,
18 no actual, I want to say not law enforcement action,
19 there was no arrest made, there was no contraband was
20 found, nothing was done until later on Deputy Babb was
21 advised he needed to write a report.

22 I didn't, I wasn't instructed to write one, or
23 provide a supplement, because of my role.

24 Q Sure.

25 A I was purely assisting and covering.

260

1 Q So at what point -- let me take a couple steps
2 back. You talked about how the rules on when you need to
3 do a supplemental report have changed; is that correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q When did that happen? Do you -- at least to
6 your memory. I mean obviously you're not going to know
7 on X date so-and-so told us we need to do this. But to
8 your mind, when did it come down that you had to start
9 doing supplemental reports whenever you assisted?

10 A I would say about probably a little over a year

11 ago.

12 Q Okay. And who clarified that?

13 A That would be one of our supervisors. Gamboa.

14 It would be one of our supervisors. And then I've heard

15 it from other supervisors as well.

16 Q Okay. And you mentioned a couple of seconds

17 ago that there wouldn't have been a general report here

18 because it was a traffic stop with just a warning. What

19 did you mean by that?

20 A Meaning that on traffic stops, if there's no

21 other further law enforcement action taken, meaning

22 nobody's arrested, there's no evidence, there's nothing

23 to enter, nothing of that nature, we can close it out as

24 a traffic stop. We put the person's information and then

25 we're on our way.

261

1 Q Okay. And what -- and you were talking about

2 this particular traffic stop that someone told Deputy

3 Babb he needed to write a report. What do you -- what

4 did you mean by that?

5 A I remember right -- because we don't typically

6 write general reports. I believe that a complaint was

7 made by Mr. Schott after the fact.

8 Q Okay.

9 A So, and that's what I understand from that.

10 Q Okay. So you -- your understanding is that

11 Mr. Schott made a complaint --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- and that prompted the creation of this
14 general report.

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And earlier today we talked about the
17 importance of having records on the same day when
18 you're -- by the end of your duty. This general report
19 by Deputy Babb was completed on the 18th of March. Is
20 that fair?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q So that was two days after the traffic stop; is
23 that correct?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. And to your knowledge, were you involved
262

1 in any of the conversations in between when Alek Schott
2 was stopped and the traffic stop on the 16th and the
3 18th?

4 A No, ma'am.

5 Q So no one came to you and talked to you and
6 said Deputy Gereb, what happened?

7 A Yeah. No one's talked to me at all about it
8 until I was needed for here.

9 Q Sure. That's fine. I just wanted to know in
10 this context here whether anybody had any conversations
11 with you.

12 Let's go to Page 5, the action log.

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And earlier today we looked at a SPEARS summary
15 that had a list of action items in the action log. This
16 one's blank. Why?

17 A Again, same thing, we didn't -- some of us had
18 gotten, I would say, you know, relaxed about putting the
19 action logs in when our role is so minute, or not as
20 vague.

21 Again, since then it has been clarified that we
22 are to do something about it, or write something in
23 there, whether it's assist coverage, assist with a
24 search, standby, something of that nature.

25 Q Okay.

263

1 A So since then, it has been -- we have been
2 directed again by supervisors to put an input in, have
3 some type of input.

4 Q Let's go back to Exhibit 5.

5 MS. HEBERT: Daniel, you don't need to do
6 anything.

7 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Deputy Babb, or Deputy Gereb,
8 you might have Exhibit 5.

9 A Right here.

10 Q I'm going to go back to my version. We looked
11 at this previously. And I want to skip to -- let me make
12 sure I'm looking at the right document. Okay. Yeah, I
13 want to go to the second page of this document, and we
14 are looking at -- which number are we on? What number is

15 this?

16 MR. WINDHAM: 5.

17 MS. HEBERT: 5.

18 Q (By Ms. Hebert) I'm looking at Number 5. And

19 can we look at the activity log section? And the

20 activity log here says no call activity. Is that fair?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Okay. And I want to look up at the comments

23 section. You'll see the comments section at the top of

24 the page with the gray title. And the first line is

25 3/16/2022, 11:15:08, Joel Babb response, and then I see a
264

1 license plate number. Is that correct?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q What does that mean happened there?

4 A That means when he entered the, when he

5 initiated the traffic stop, the traffic button, he put

6 the, tapped the license plate in.

7 Q So that's when he entered the license plate?

8 A Yes.

9 Q At 11:15:08?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Next line 11:49:50 there's a user number. Do

12 you know what that corresponds to?

13 A It's going to be -- that's an employee number.

14 Q Okay. That's an employee number?

15 A Yes, I believe that might be a dispatcher's

16 number. I don't know if it shows on the other exhibits

17 if that belongs to anybody else's.

18 Q Okay. And then the comments section, what is

19 that saying?

20 A Canine deployment, timestamp.

21 Q Explain what that means to me.

22 A So a canine they usually have, when they deploy

23 their canine, they have to put a time stamp the dog was

24 taken out of the vehicle and did a sniff.

25 Q So this 11:49:50 was a time stamp for when the
265

1 dog was removed from the vehicle?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And 11:50:49, there's another line of text.

4 Can you read that for me and explain what it says?

5 A It says 5 kilo 18 positive alert, dash, or fort

6 slash forward slash driver's side door.

7 Q What does that mean to you?

8 A It's showing where the dog positively alerted

9 on.

10 Q Okay. The next Line 12:22:35 Molina response,

11 the comments section, can you read that for me and

12 decipher it?

13 A Again it's canine daily activity report, canine

14 deployment, body worn camera available.

15 Q What do you mean by canine daily activity

16 report?

17 A Just -- so on ours, if you look at mine, the

18 next line says DAR.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A Okay. It's his -- it's because he's canine,

21 K -- K for kilo, canine, that's kind of how they do that.

22 Q Okay. What does DAR then stand for?

23 A Daily activity report.

24 Q Okay. So it's just -- where does that go, just

25 I'm reporting on my activity?

266

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And the second to last line that's

3 12:30:47, DAR OIA T stop X1 warning. What's that saying?

4 A So that was his daily activity report, officer

5 initiated activity. Traffic stop, you have to put

6 traffic, traffic stop, in his case he put T stop, then

7 times one warning.

8 Q Okay. And then the last line, 12:30:58, Babb,

9 Joel responds, axon BWC, that means the body cam is

10 available?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. And again, the activity log section of

13 this one is blank. Is that fair?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q Okay. What's the -- on the next page, which

16 has the Bates stamp 163 at the bottom, there's a little

17 bit of data on the top that says description, PSAP data,

18 Bexar County SO, then there's a phone number and mobile

19 3. Do you know what that's about?

20 A I do not.

21 Q That's okay. And do you know what the next
22 line is about?

23 A I do not. This one -- if I'm reading that
24 right, it says SAPD channel and not SAPD means that it
25 was the area we were in was the San Antonio Police
267

1 Department patrols, or -- and again it will say not SAPD
2 because we're not -- even then we still, I don't think it
3 was putting out SAPD because.

4 Q So this is like a jurisdictional marker. You
5 weren't in the San Antonio Police Department district.

6 A No, ma'am.

7 MS. HEBERT: Okay. I want to go to Exhibit KK.
8 And we may need the big version of this one too, Daniel.

9 MR. NELSON: May need the what?

10 MS. HEBERT: The big version of this one too.

11 MR. NELSON: Okay. Is it in --

12 MS. HEBERT: No, we'll start with this one.
13 Just as a heads up.

14 MR. NELSON: Okay. Okay.

15 MS. HEBERT: Let's mark this as Exhibit, what
16 exhibit are we at, 10?

17 MR. NELSON: Yes.

18 Q (By Ms. Hebert) And I'm going to represent to
19 you this is the same document we just looked at as
20 Exhibit 5, but the redacted version. Is that fair?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Okay. I want to skip to the next page. Well
23 actually the very bottom. Do you see the grayed out
24 portion at the very bottom that says activity log?

25 A Yes.

268

1 Q The third line up? And do you see an entry
2 there?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And let's stip to the next page. Is there a
5 considerable number of entries on activity log?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And can you tell me what the activity log is
8 showing?

9 A There's --

10 Q Just in general, like what is it for?

11 A The key card. The actions of the key card.
12 When the call was initiated was officers secured, all
13 that entry, everything that goes on during the call.

14 Q Okay. I want to take a -- take time and go
15 through all of these entries and let's figure out what
16 they say but let's take a brief break so I can get you a
17 copy that not so tiny, if that's okay?

18 A I can read it.

19 Q Well, we have a bigger version I can give it
20 are to you?

21 A Okay.

22 MS. HEBERT: Let's take a brief break. We'll

23 go off the record for a second.

24 THE REPORTER: We're off the record.

25 (Recess from 3:49 p.m. to 3:54 p.m.)

269

1 THE REPORTER: We will back on the record.

2 Q (By Ms. Hebert) We're going to hand you another

3 exhibit. I think this is marked Exhibit 11?

4 MR. NELSON: Correct.

5 Q (By Ms. Hebert) And this is just the same

6 document on a bigger sheet of paper so we could try to

7 zoom it in. Let's skip to the second page if you don't

8 mind. Oh actually, can we go back to the first page?

9 What's the report generated date on this one?

10 A 7/13/22.

11 Q Okay. Can you look at Exhibit 5 again? And

12 what was the report date on generated on that one?

13 A 9/14/23.

14 Q See the exhibit we have is, 11, is earlier in

15 time than this exhibit. Is that fair?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. Let's look at the second page of Exhibit

18 11 and I was hoping that you would walk me through this

19 activity log. Can we start at the top? And the first

20 kind of column or the first row is the same date, March

21 16th, 2022, 11:15:07, 5 India 12, that's Deputy Babb; is

22 that correct?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Then you have see response. What does response

25 mean there?

270

1 A Oh, that he's initiated a traffic stop.

2 Q Okay. And then over in the log entry column, I

3 think it starts responding from IH-35, and then a bunch

4 of language. What is that log entry referring to?

5 A Where he's coming from.

6 Q Okay.

7 A The part of the highway he's on.

8 Q And then the next entry also at 11:15:07, 5I12

9 says in the activity column says on scene. What does

10 that mean?

11 A That means that, that he's secure -- not

12 secure, that he's on scene, that he's -- it's checking

13 out that he's started the call and that he's on scene at

14 the call.

15 Q Okay. And then the next line says incident in

16 waiting queue. What does that mean?

17 A I do not know.

18 Q Okay. And then the line after that says

19 waiting pending incident time warning. Do you know what

20 that means?

21 A So this is usually where dispatch, it does,

22 what I talked about earlier, they give us amount of time

23 to secure ourselves. And so they always, they have a

24 running clock when we do officer initiated activities.

25 And if we don't respond during that clock let them know

271

1 we're okay they're going to start asking our status.

2 Q Okay. Well it sounds like this is one of

3 those indicators to send their status and it had only

4 been 1 second since Deputy Babb responded. So why would

5 you get a warning then?

6 A No, I'm sorry, it's -- it's -- it is that but

7 it's starting the clock.

8 Q Okay?

9 A That's when the clock is starting.

10 Q Super helpful that's when the clock is starting

11 for the way you need to check in warning?

12 A No, no that's a hey -- so when the dispatchers

13 sit in there and they see that get started, the clock, I

14 believe, automatically starts, like a timer. So the next

15 thing is you check out officer initiated activity,

16 traffic stop or whatever. A clock starts. So that way

17 they can say hey, we need to make sure he's initially

18 secure, and then I believe once we're secured, another

19 clock starts again. That gives us a little bit more time

20 to --

21 Q Okay. So this is the pre-security clock

22 starting?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. So you're not secured. You started an

25 incident. Your clock is starting to let us know that

272

1 you're okay.

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. The next line says traffic stop incident

4 created. And the log, the log entry says incident

5 created successfully from Unit 5 India 12 by Babb, Joel.

6 Did I read all that correctly?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Can you explain this line to me?

9 A The traffic stop. This is all from like the

10 dispatcher's side. I don't know how the orderings, why

11 it puts it in whatever orders. Usually, from my

12 understanding is I started it, that should be me starting

13 the whole problem.

14 Q That kind of makes sense?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q Like this is all 1 second apart?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q So all these things are just like you hit

19 traffic stop and it started all these little timers and

20 indicators?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Is that fair?

23 A (Nodding head.)

24 Q Then let's skip down to the supplemental

25 information, supplemental vehicle record and there's a

273

1 number added for license plate. What does that mean?

2 A Are you talking about --

3 Q I'm in the log entry?

4 A 11:17:32 we're looking at time.

5 Q No 11:15:08?

6 A Oh, okay.

7 Q Where it says supplement at vehicle report?

8 A I'm sorry, the 6:05 number.

9 Q Yes, the 605 number?

10 A Okay. I see what you're talking about. So
11 what was the question?

12 Q What does that log entry mean?

13 A I believe that's when he ran the -- or that's
14 when the license plate information was coming back.

15 Q Okay.

16 A I don't know what the number means.

17 Q All right. And then the next line says plate
18 number redacted was added. Do you know what that means?

19 A It was redacted?

20 Q The next line in the log entry?

21 A Plate number redacted has been added. No, I
22 don't.

23 Q Okay. Let's go to -- it's hard to indicate the
24 marker. There's a log entry that starts out with 5 India
25 12, incidental, incident LD. Do you see what I'm talking

274

1 about? It's 11:17:32 is the time?

2 A Okay.

3 MR. FRIGERIO: Over here.

4 A You said 11:1732.

5 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Here let's just go line by line
6 so make it easier. So we've got 11:15:12; is that right?

7 A Yes.

8 Q That's when your move wait pending incident
9 warning is gone is that fair?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Then 11:16:44, 5 I 12 secure does that mean
12 Deputy Babb indicated he was secure at that moment?

13 A Yes.

14 Q So that means that he successfully made the
15 stop?

16 A Yes.

17 Q So as of 11:16:44, he had stopped Alek Schott.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. 11:17:32, the next line, record check,
20 person check. And then you see a couple of things in the
21 log entry. Does that mean that at 11:17:32, Deputy Babb
22 ran the person check on Alek Schott?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And can we see what came back here, or does
25 this just indicate that it ran a check?

275

1 A It just ran a check. I think if he had
2 anything, a warrant, anything other than that it would
3 just be his driver's license that came back.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Meaning like if he had any warrants or if he

6 was wanted or outstanding, it would -- it would pop up.

7 But.

8 Q It would show up here on this piece of --

9 A I don't know.

10 Q Paper?

11 A I've never seen it here.

12 Q Okay.

13 A It's very rare that we look at these.

14 Q So if something popped up, where would it show
15 up?

16 A It would show up on the returns we get from --
17 so whenever we get a return for your license, vehicle
18 information, if he had a warrant or anything, it would
19 pop up on the same screen.

20 Q Okay. Do you know where that would be logged?

21 A I don't know.

22 Q Okay. That's fine. And the next check is
23 11:17:32. It seems like there was another person check,
24 supplemental person check. Is that fair?

25 A Yes.

276

1 Q And then again, the next line, 11:17:32, there
2 was another supplemental information. There's a
3 supplemental information and the log entry says
4 supplemental person record, then a number was added for
5 Alek Schott. Do you know what that's talking about?

6 A No, ma'am.

7 Q Okay. 11:27:05, there's 5 kilo 18 DISP. What

8 is that line referring to?

9 A He's dispatched, or he's on his way.

10 Q Okay. So at 11:2705 Deputy Molina was

11 dispatched.

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q 11 -- I'm going to skip down to 11:47:34. And

14 you see 5 kilo 18 on scene. Does that mean at 11:47:34,

15 Deputy Molina was on scene?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And he had arrived?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q The next one, 11:48:56, 5 kilo 18 secure, that

20 means that Deputy Molina was secure at that point?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Okay. And then there, the next entry is

23 12:22:35. And that is 5 kilo 18 avail; is that correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And is that what you were referring to earlier

277

1 when you said cleared out?

2 A Yes. We're available.

3 Q So now based on this indicator at 12:22, Deputy

4 Molina is ready to go back into the field and available

5 to be dispatched?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Okay. I want to skip to 3:17. You see that,

8 at the very bottom, the last two rows.

9 A Okay.

10 Q And you got 8:06:56, read comment. Then the
11 log entry, comment for incident 864 was marked as read.

12 Do you know what that's referring to?

13 A No, ma'am.

14 Q And I'm going to guess the answer to this is
15 also known. Do you know what the next to last line user
16 action is about?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. Just kind of one quick follow-up item.
19 Looking at the -- at the things that are time stamped
20 11:17:32, those are those three person checks, do you see
21 them in the activity log?

22 A Okay, yes.

23 Q There are three time stamps that say 11:17:32.

24 Do you see those three time stamp entries?

25 A Yes.

278

1 Q And those all talk about record check or
2 personal information, supplemental person. Is that fair?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Does that mean that the computer checks were
5 done on Alek Schott at 11:17:32?

6 A As in they were done running them?

7 Q Yes.

8 A I believe so.

9 Q Okay. Thank you. And I know that was really

10 tiny print so thank you for bearing with me on that. I

11 want to look at another document that is our Exhibit JJ?

12 MR. NELSON: Okay.

13 MS. HEBERT: And this will be marked as Exhibit

14 12.

15 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Take a look at this when you

16 get a chance and let me know when you're done?

17 A Okay.

18 Q Are you ready?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What is this document?

21 A It is a copy of the citation.

22 Q Okay. And how do officers refer to this

23 document?

24 A Copy of the citation.

25 Q Okay. Just want to make sure if there's a

279

1 lingo and I missed it. When is a copy of the citation

2 required?

3 A Usually on every stop.

4 Q Okay. So every time a citation, even if it's a

5 warning, is issued, you print a copy of it?

6 A Are you talking about for our personal records?

7 Q No. For the Sheriff's Office?

8 A Oh, yeah, they go into the databases which is

9 where you can obtain a copy like this from.

10 Q Okay. So this is automatically created every

11 time a citation, be it a warning or a ticket, is issued?

12 A Yes, through the Brazos, yes.

13 Q And this is automatically created. Once you
14 print it out and do the ticketing thing, this document is
15 the report, one of the reports you're talking about?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. Let's look at the section location and
18 violation information. Earlier today, do you see where
19 I'm talking about?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And let's look down at issued by Deputy Babb
22 and ID number. Issue date and time. And I'm seeing the
23 date as 3/16/2022 and the time is 9:32. Do you see that?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And earlier today we talked about the fact that
280

1 the stop was at 11:15 a.m. Why does this say 9:32 a.m.?

2 A I do not know.

3 Q Okay.

4 A I have -- there have been times that the E
5 writers have their time off. That's usually just a
6 system update.

7 Q I'm sorry, I didn't understand what you said
8 there are times when something has their time wrong?

9 A The E writer or Brazos system has their time
10 off and it's very rare that it does.

11 Q Sure.

12 A But it has happened.

13 Q And let's look at the stuff on the right-hand

14 side of the page where it says diagram.

15 A Yes.

16 Q Reason for initial stop, moving traffic

17 violation. Did I read that right?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And then three lines down, it says STEP, and

20 no. Does that mean that this was not STEP traffic

21 enforcement?

22 A Yes, it was not.

23 Q So earlier we talked about STEP traffic

24 enforcement and you talked about how you would

25 specifically be on duty for STEP traffic enforcement.

281

1 This stop was not STEP traffic enforcement?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Based on this record?

4 A Correct.

5 Q And then I want to go down to search. Do you

6 see where it says search?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Colon and no search?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Why does it say no search?

11 A It could have been that Deputy Babb didn't

12 check that box off properly.

13 Q Okay. So explain that to me.

14 A I don't know what he was doing inside the car

15 at the time.

16 Q Yeah, obviously you don't know what was going
17 on in Deputy Babb's mind --

18 A But --

19 Q But what do you -- you said check that box off.
20 What do you mean by check that box off?

21 A So there's a drop down box that says did you
22 search the vehicle, was there probable cause, all that
23 stuff, what were you looking for. That's usually what
24 that entails.

25 Q Okay. So if I'm understanding you correctly,
282

1 when you're filling out this citation, there's some box
2 that you can check for whether there's a search or not.

3 A Yes.

4 Q And the row underneath the search that's
5 labeled contraband, that's blank, correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So I want to make sure we've got all the
8 records for the Alek Schott stop. Today we've looked at
9 two copies of the SPEARS summary. We've looked at two
10 versions of the incident detail report and this citation
11 report. To your knowledge, would there be any other
12 documents or reports coming from the stop of Alek Schott?

13 A Not that I know of.

14 Q Okay. And we've looked at the communications
15 log. We talked about -- by communications log, I mean

16 the exhibit where you said on my way.

17 A Yes.

18 Q And we talked about some phone messages and
19 calls that you have not been able to obtain the records
20 for. But are there any other ways that officers would
21 have communicated with Alek Schott?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Not that I know of.

25 Q There may be, and I think you did mention an
283

1 audio file for radio traffic. There maybe some audio
2 file. Is that fair?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Did you ever talk to Deputy Babb about this
5 stop after the fact?

6 A After the fact? No, not until I guess when he
7 had told me he had to write a report about it. But other
8 than that, no.

9 Q When did he tell you he had to write a report
10 about it?

11 A I guess when the complaint came out.

12 Q Okay. So do you remember when the complaint
13 was?

14 A I don't.

15 Q Okay. And what did Deputy Babb say to you when
16 the complaint came?

17 A He had to write a report.

18 Q Anything else?

19 A That's it.

20 Q Okay. What did you say in response?

21 A I don't remember.

22 Q Okay. Did you ever talk to Deputy Molina about
23 this stop?

24 A Not until it came out that we had to do these
25 depositions. But other than that, no, we haven't really
284

1 discussed it.

2 Q Sure. And to your knowledge, has anyone, any
3 Sheriff's Officer been disciplined for any role in the
4 stop of Alek Schott?

5 A Not that you're aware of.

6 Q I guess maybe disciplined is too harsh of a
7 word. Has any officer been counseled as a result of the
8 stop of Alek Schott?

9 A Not that I'm aware of.

10 Q Anything like we need to even make sure that
11 we're documenting our stops correctly? Because we've
12 talked a little bit about how your practices have changed
13 with the traffic stops. Do you know if the stop of Alek
14 Schott prompted any of those changes?

15 A No, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. And we're here today because Alek Schott
17 has filed a lawsuit alleging that his constitutional
18 rights were violated. To your knowledge, was there

19 any -- has there been any investigation of what happened

20 to Alek Schott after he filed this lawsuit?

21 A I was called in to Internal Affairs to make a

22 statement. But other than that, that was it.

23 Q Okay. And what happened when you were called

24 into Internal Affairs?

25 A I wrote down what I did, from what I could
285

1 recall. I wasn't able to review my camera at the time,

2 because the cameras had been archived already. And you

3 have to pull them back from archives. And they, it would

4 take probably about three hours they said. So they said

5 just go off what I could recollect from that day.

6 Q And I've never been involved in an Internal

7 Affairs conversation. So what does that look like?

8 A No, you show up, you have your union, I guess

9 union-appointed or agency, association-appointed

10 attorney. For us we use a thing called CLEAT. And if

11 not, then you just show up on your own and make your own

12 statement.

13 Q Okay. And so you go with an attorney that

14 potentially comes with you and you speak to who?

15 A Whoever's investigating the incident.

16 Q And who did you speak to?

17 A That day it was Sergeant Bowser.

18 Q Bowser. Can you spell Bowser?

19 A B-O-W-S-E-R.

20 Q Okay. And did he give you any feedback or make

21 any comments?

22 A No, she did not.

23 Q Or she?

24 A No. She said -- I told her I would like to

25 review my video on we tried to get in the back.

286

1 Unfortunately we're not able to get it back due to it

2 being archived. So I went off the recollection what I

3 had.

4 Q Okay. And what -- since you've had that

5 recollection and you've watched the body camera videos,

6 did you like remember something new or see something new?

7 A No. I didn't realize I had two videos. I

8 didn't remember. It had been so long. But the being

9 called back was, for Internal Affairs was pretty recent,

10 like within the last three months.

11 Q Sure.

12 A So I'm not aware of anything else as far as

13 that.

14 Q And was your statement to the Internal Affairs

15 investigator, was that written down or recorded?

16 A Yes, I typed up my statement.

17 Q Okay. You typed up your statement and sent it

18 to the Internal Affairs person?

19 A Yes. We were there in the office.

20 Q Okay. So help me understand this. Did you

21 have -- you get called into Internal Affairs. You have a

22 conversation with Bowser. Do you write the -- write up

23 the report together?

24 A No. No.

25 Q Okay.

287

1 A She -- so we -- Internal Affairs investigating

2 deputy will step out, and we will do our part.

3 Q Okay. So you got called into Internal Affairs

4 deputy who was investigating, you talked with her, and

5 then you wrote up your recollection?

6 A Yes. So her, her involvement was very minute

7 as far as saying hey we're here. This is for Deputy

8 Babb's case. This is what you're presented with. And

9 that was it. Right? I asked to review my dash cameras.

10 Wasn't able to retrieve my camera because of the archive,

11 and then from that point, I wrote what I could remember

12 offhand.

13 Q Okay. And so you wrote, then wrote down

14 everything that you could remember. And what happened

15 after that?

16 A That was it. Now I'm here.

17 Q And they sent you on your way?

18 A Well, I already knew this was coming. I had

19 already talked to. But after that that was it.

20 Q Okay. Do you know what has happened as a

21 result of that investigation, the Internal Affairs

22 investigation?

23 A No, ma'am.

24 Q And have you heard if that investigation is
25 done?

288

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q Okay. So you have no idea as you sit here
3 today whether that investigation is opened or closed or
4 anything?

5 A I have no idea what's going on with it.

6 Q That's okay.

7 MS. HEBERT: Let's look at Exhibit U, Daniel.

8 MR. NELSON: U?

9 MS. HEBERT: U. U as in unicorn.

10 MR. NELSON: Yep. This should be 13, correct?

11 THE REPORTER: Yes, that's correct.

12 MS. HEBERT: Exhibit 13.

13 Q (By Ms. Hebert) Let me know when you're ready.

14 A Go ahead.

15 Q What is this document?

16 A It's a SPEARS Incident Report.

17 Q I'm going to say the reported time, the date
18 looks like it's April 4th, 2022. Am I reading that
19 correctly?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And then the incident time looks like it's
22 April 4th, 2022 as well. And there's time stamps for
23 both of those pieces, both of those lines. And it seems
24 like that's an hour apart; is that correct?

25 A Yes.

289

1 Q But there's not much other information here. I
2 don't see anything in involved persons. The address is
3 there, but we see two involved officers. The assisting
4 officer would be yourself, and the reporting officer
5 would be Deputy Gereb [sic]. Why is the --

6 A You got that backwards.

7 Q Oh, sorry. The assisting officer would be
8 Deputy Gereb, and the reporting officer would be Deputy
9 Babb. The next page the action log is blank. Why is
10 there not more information on this traffic stop incident
11 report?

12 A I'm not aware of why.

13 Q Okay.

14 A There have been times that, every so often that
15 we, we get, we'll accidentally, instead of doing a
16 vehicle check, there's an option to do a vehicle check
17 and a traffic stop, we'll accidentally do a traffic stop
18 versus doing a vehicle check. I don't know if that was
19 the case on this one.

20 Q Sure.

21 A And also at the same time, it goes back to,
22 what I mentioned earlier, that we weren't really harped
23 on make sure we have the input information, until -- it
24 was sometime after this.

25 Q And remind me when that time was that you were

290

1 really told that, harped on to get more information in

2 your summaries?

3 A About, about a year ago. A little over a year

4 ago.

5 Q So what, we're in February 2024. So February

6 2023?

7 A I would probably say probably late 2022.

8 Q Okay. So towards the end of 2022 was when

9 reporting started to change?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. HEBERT: Okay. All right. I think this

12 would be a good time for a break if you don't mind.

13 THE REPORTER: We're off the record.

14 (Recess from 4:20 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

15 THE REPORTER: We are back on the record.

16 Q (By Ms. Hebert) I wanted to talk a little bit

17 about the difference between your process for making a

18 traffic stop when you were a patrol deputy versus when

19 you were a criminal interdiction deputy. When you pulled

20 someone over doing criminal interdiction, did you decide

21 whether to give them a warning or citation before you got

22 out of the vehicle?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. When we talked about your -- I'm going

25 to try to be super clear about which one's which, when we

1 talked about the patrol deputy, we talked about the fact

2 you would walk up to the passenger's side or driver's

3 side depending which one was the safer side, talk to the
4 driver, tell them who you are, why you pulled them over,
5 get their license and insurance information, go back to
6 your vehicle to run the check; is that correct?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q And then you would decide, based on running the
9 check and the information that you got, whether to give
10 them a citation or warning; is that fair?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q When you're a criminal interdiction, when you
13 were working as a criminal interdiction deputy, you walk
14 up to the passenger or the driver's side, whatever's
15 safer. You tell them who you are; is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you tell them why you pulled them over; is
18 that correct?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Do you tell the driver at that point whether
21 they're getting a citation or a warning?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. What do you do?

24 A Ask for their information.

25 Q Same as with, as a --

292

1 A As a patrolman.

2 Q Okay. And we talked a little bit about you
3 conducting interviews with the drivers. At what point

4 during the interview do you usually decide whether to

5 give a citation or a warning?

6 A Towards the end, after I've decided whether

7 this traffic stop's going to go any further than what it

8 needs to go, and I make that decision. Based on, you

9 know, traffic history, what do I have, what was a real

10 safety issue, what, you know, were they being

11 cooperative, was there something else going on. And is

12 this stop going to go any further than just a traffic

13 stop. You know, is somebody going to go to jail, is

14 there contraband, you know, the whole -- again, it just

15 goes back to discretion.

16 Q Sure.

17 A Really using that discretion. I look at

18 everything as a whole.

19 Q Okay. And did you ever write the warning or

20 print up -- I guess not writing any more -- did you ever

21 print a warning and just hold onto it before giving it to

22 the driver?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. So whenever you make a stop, you

25 decide -- you do the interview, you decide whether you're

293

1 going to do the citation or the warning and then you

2 print it. Is that fair?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. And you talked a little bit about now

5 your criminal interdiction practices have changed. Only

6 60 percent of the time are you looking for traffic stops

7 for criminal interdiction; is that correct?

8 A Yes, ma'am. Mostly because of our, our -- our

9 assignment has changed because of where they want us to

10 be at. I don't know if that's going to change again,

11 because we have, you know, some chain of command changes.

12 So we don't know if there's going to be any shifts or

13 anything like that. But as of right now it's going to be

14 the same, hey, we're going to hit this area, we're going

15 to check out the, you know, motels, we're going to go to

16 UPS, check out, see if they've got anything, check out

17 the airports, Amtrak, see what we can run on.

18 Q So before the change where you are now doing 40

19 percent other criminal interdiction work, before that

20 shift, how much of your time would you estimate was

21 traffic stop criminal interdiction work?

22 A I would say about 99 percent of it.

23 Q Okay. I want to re-watch a portion of the

24 video -- of a video.

25 MS. HEBERT: Let's look at Exhibit 6, Daniel.

294

1 And time stamp 51:00.

2 (Video playing.)

3 Q Okay. So you saw the body camera footage from

4 Deputy Babb cut out. Is that fair, it ended?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Why would it have ended in the middle of the

7 stop?

8 A I don't know. I know from what I've seen on
9 mine, I think once it gets to a certain amount of time,
10 it restarts another video.

11 Q Okay.

12 A That's what I've seen.

13 Q Sure.

14 A In the past with my old body camera. So I've
15 had stops and camera footage that would go on three or
16 four hours, and it's, the system automatically does it on
17 its own.

18 Q Okay. So sometimes it stops automatically is
19 what you're telling me.

20 A It won't stop. It will start recording
21 another, usually the camera might say ongoing, it will
22 stop and start a new video. So it won't -- not say stop.
23 It will just start a new video on its own.

24 Q Okay. That's helpful. And we talked a little
25 bit about this conversation before between you and Deputy
295

1 Babb, this section. But at the time of the stop for Alek
2 Schott, were the only two official criminal interdiction
3 officers you and Deputy Babb?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And we talked a little bit also about how the
6 criminal interdiction unit has followed Sergeant Gamboa
7 through his various places in the Sheriff's Office
8 organization. Do you remember that?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Why did it follow Sergeant Gamboa around?

11 A I'm not sure. He's also been the supervisor of
12 it. That's above my head.

13 Q Yeah. Do you know if he created the?

14 A He did --

15 Q The criminal interdiction unit?

16 A He did.

17 Q And how do you know that?

18 A Because I was there when he -- not there when
19 he started it, but I was one of the ones he brought on.

20 Q Uh-huh, and -- or yes. And when he started it,
21 what -- how was it explained to you?

22 A That we're going to go hunt -- I guess we're
23 going to be looking for people that are involved in
24 smuggling activity, narcotics, stuff like that. Because
25 at that time I didn't know what interdiction was. I was

296

1 so caught up with wanting to do DWIs. I had taken
2 courses for DWIs, become I guess what they call ARIDE. I
3 had gone through my breathalyzer course to become an
4 intoxilyzer operator. I was taking steps because that's
5 the route I wanted to go. And I think I had applied four
6 times and did not get in. So -- but Gamboa was looking
7 for people, and he asked recommendations, and I was
8 recommended. So he offered it to me, and I said yeah,
9 I'll do it.

10 Q And did you meet with Sergeant Gamboa before

11 you accepted that?

12 A No. It was through phone calls.

13 Q Okay.

14 A I had been through, I had been -- because I

15 think we, you know, you see officers in passing, you get

16 to identify who they are and stuff like that.

17 Q So did he call you then to talk to you about

18 the criminal interdiction unit?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And how did he explain the criminal

21 interdiction unit?

22 A Again, like I said, he said we're going to be

23 looking for people that are involved in heavy criminal

24 activity, smuggling.

25 Q Sure. And I think you stopped yourself and I

297

1 just want to follow up. You said at one point hunt.

2 What do you mean by that?

3 A Hunt, traffic stops. We call it hunting,

4 slang. But they go out and find people that are involved

5 in criminal activity.

6 Q Okay. And on the section of the footage we

7 just watched, when you said -- when Deputy Babb said to

8 you it's, um, one of the vehicles from that thing then

9 Followed it up with he was riding tandem, what did -- did

10 you -- what did Deputy Babb know or what did you

11 understand Deputy Babb to know about this vehicle he was

12 looking at?

13 A From what I know, that it was intel information
14 passed onto him.

15 Q Right. And what kind of information would
16 Deputy Babb have received? Would he know the license
17 plate number, for example, of this vehicle? Would he
18 know who the driver was? Like what -- I'm just trying to
19 understand what Deputy Babb would have learned as part of
20 this tip process?

21 A So normally if it's a vehicle, we don't know
22 who's in the vehicle. It's -- it will be the license
23 plate and type of vehicle that we're looking for.

24 Q Sure.

25 A So in this case, whoever provided him the
298

1 information said hey, this vehicle was stopped -- has
2 been seen scanning. And there's, you know, they'll say
3 that -- because the information I've received in the past
4 is the turnaround time how fast they went down to a
5 certain area and came back up.

6 Q Okay. And so you might get the turnaround time
7 for how, from where the person went and then went -- let
8 me take a step back. Some of the information you might
9 get might be the vehicle information, some of the vehicle
10 information, or the turnaround time on that vehicle; is
11 that correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Would there be occasions where you would only
14 get the color and make or model of the vehicle and the
15 turnaround time?

16 A Yes. But if you don't get, they don't get a
17 license plate, sometimes the license plate readers, if
18 they're not, if they don't pick up, they won't get a
19 picture of the vehicle.

20 Q Sure. So just to be clear, there are times
21 when you would get just the vehicle type, you know, a
22 white Chevy, for instance?

23 A Correct.

24 Q And you wouldn't have a license plate number;
25 is that correct?

299

1 A Correct.

2 Q And, you know, you talk about in this part of
3 the video that you were looking for a white Chevy. Could
4 that be one of those times where you only knew it was a
5 white Chevy?

6 A Correct.

7 Q So we talked a little bit about in your patrol
8 deputy capacity how you would hand over the file to the
9 Assistant District Attorney and they would handle the
10 prosecution of the criminal case from your time as patrol
11 deputy. Remember that?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q So when you worked as a criminal interdiction
14 officer, can you walk me through the process of what

15 happens for the situation where you did find, you know, a
16 big amount of drugs or contraband or something on a
17 vehicle, who do you -- who do you bring that to?

18 A Same. It's the same process.

19 Q The same ADA?

20 A Not the same ADA. It's whoever's sitting in
21 the office at the time.

22 Q Okay.

23 A So if -- they have shifts. So if ADA 1 gets
24 off at 4:00, and ADA 2 is there and I just happen to be
25 coming in at 3:00, I'm going to see ADA 2.

300

1 Q I get it. You just get whoever's on shift at
2 that time?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Have you ever talked with the ADA after you
5 submitted your report and your materials about what
6 happened to -- what the results of your search were?

7 A No, because it's already in the report.

8 Q Okay. So they use your report. And have you
9 ever had to testify, for instance, on what you discovered
10 during a search?

11 A Not, not in a state jail. I've done federal
12 side.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Because I was assisting on another case where
15 dope was found, a violation had happened.

16 Q A traffic violation you mean?

17 A So one of our deputies was chasing a vehicle.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And so I assisted with the pursuit. Guy ended

20 up having some contraband in the vehicle, and he went --

21 they went to a federal trial.

22 Q Okay. And so what happened in the federal

23 trial?

24 A I had to show up in a suit and testify.

25 Q Okay.

301

1 A Yeah.

2 MR. WINDHAM: Sorry.

3 MS. HEBERT: No, it's all good. Sorry about

4 that.

5 Q (By Ms. Hebert) And do you know what happened,

6 what the results of that federal trial were?

7 A I don't.

8 Q That's okay. And have you ever gotten feedback

9 from maybe the ADA or the results of criminal proceedings

10 about your searches? So here's an example, you discover

11 a bunch of dope in a car, they go through the process of

12 charging, and there's a question about whether you had

13 enough grounds to search the vehicle. Has that ever

14 happened to you?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And how did that play out? Tell me like the

17 process and then what the results were?

18 A They asked me to elaborate.

19 Q Who is they?

20 A The ADA.

21 Q Okay. So they came back to you and said give
22 me some more information?

23 A No so you're talking about after the fact after
24 everything was said and done after the month, next thing
25 or I'm sitting in the office with them currently turning
302

1 in my report.

2 Q I mean after you've turned in your report, the
3 report is done.

4 A Yes.

5 Q And the added is trying to get the conviction?

6 A So like a pretrial hearing.

7 Q At the pretrial hearing or motion to suppress
8 hearing?

9 A Okay.

10 Q Have you ever gotten feedback about how that's
11 gone?

12 A No, not -- not at that point. They just ask me
13 to elaborate on mine. That's it.

14 Q So you've gotten some follow-up questions, for
15 example?

16 A Yes.

17 Q But you've never gotten any feedback from an
18 added that said look, Deputy Gereb, we weren't able to

19 bring in that evidence because the judge ruled that the
20 search shouldn't have happened.

21 A No, never had.

22 Q Has anybody ever talked to you about anything
23 like that?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. And as far as you know, there's no
303

1 process for the Sheriff's Office to check that the things
2 that they find actually get admitted in court?

3 A As far as like being the, I guess you could say
4 the prosecution guy getting sent up to up there.

5 Q Yeah. So for example, you pull someone over,
6 you find dope.

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q There's no process for the prosecutor for
9 saying, yes, the judge let that dope in because your
10 search was good?

11 A I don't think it goes with the search. I
12 believe there, there -- on my end it's, like I say it's
13 good or not good or whatever. But from what I understand
14 with the narcotics investigators, they have to send off,
15 even though we do a field test on dope, when it comes
16 back positive, they still have to send it off to go to
17 the lab for it to be tested again, then resubmitted. The
18 evidence has to be resubmitted. And I'm not too sure
19 which form it is. And then it has -- then it goes
20 through the process --

21 Q Okay. Let me just ask you differently. Has
22 any Assistant District Attorney ever given you impression
23 that you aren't doing searches in the right way?

24 A No.

25 Q Do you know if there's any way for an Assistant
304

1 District Attorney to communicate to the Sheriff's Office,
2 like hey, your guys aren't doing searches correctly, or
3 they are doing searches correctly?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. We talked a little bit about behavioral
6 driving earlier today. Do you remember that
7 conversation?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Have you ever stopped someone even if it was
10 not, it didn't become an official traffic stop, for
11 behavioral driving without a traffic violation?

12 A No.

13 MS. HEBERT: Anything else?

14 MR. WINDHAM: Unless you want to do that.

15 MS. HEBERT: Sure.

16 Q (By Ms. Hebert) So during your criminal
17 interdiction traffic stops, at what point -- when you,
18 when you get out of the -- all right. Let me take a step
19 back. When during the criminal interdiction traffic
20 stops, do you radio to anybody and say this is what's
21 going on, this is what I've found? Do you have any --

22 yeah, do you ever radio to someone and explain to them

23 what's going on?

24 A Not over the radio.

25 Q Okay. How do you communicate?

305

1 A Phone call.

2 Q Okay. So if you pulled someone over and you're

3 trying to figure out do I have enough to go on or this

4 sounds suspicious, you would call another officer?

5 A What do you mean, like if we're questioning our

6 own stop?

7 Q Yeah.

8 A If I have, if I'm questioning my own stop, I

9 just, I cut it off.

10 Q Okay.

11 A Because at that point, if I have doubt in

12 myself, that means this case is going to have doubt.

13 Q Okay. That's fair. And after you, let's say

14 you decide to ask the driver to get, or you decide to

15 tell the driver to get out of the vehicle, the driver

16 gets out of the vehicle. Do you give the driver a

17 Miranda warning?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay.

20 A Because they haven't been charged with

21 anything.

22 Q Do you give them a Miranda warning before you

23 do the interview process?

24 A No.

25 Q When you used to choose to have the driver come
306

1 sit in your patrol car, did you ever give them a Miranda

2 warning before having the driver come sit in your

3 passenger seat?

4 A No.

5 Q At what point do you usually give the Miranda

6 warning? What triggers the Miranda warning for you?

7 A For me it's when they're about to be charged

8 with an offense or I have -- contraband has been found.

9 If I haven't -- if they're just detained, not arrested, I

10 let them know the Miranda warnings, because I'm going to

11 have questions. And then at that point too, it also

12 would lead to an investigator coming out.

13 Q Okay. So if you put them in the back of your

14 patrol vehicle, say you're detained but you haven't

15 arrested them, would you give them the Miranda warning at

16 that time?

17 A Not at that time, until I -- once my search and

18 everything is said and done, then if I find -- if there

19 is a charge coming or there's questions that are going to

20 be coming, stemming from the search, then I'll mirandize.

21 Q Okay. So you mirandize after you find

22 something if you think they're going to be arrested.

23 A Not if I think they're going to be arrested.

24 If I know they're going to be charged with a crime.

25 Q Okay. I understand the difference that you
307

1 just said because that was me not understanding your
2 context. So if you find something and you think they're
3 going to be charged with a crime even if they're not
4 going to the station today, you would still Miranda them?

5 A Yes, because there's questions coming with it.

6 MS. HEBERT: Thank you. That's all I have.

7 MR. FRIGERIO: We'll reserve our questions.

8 Thank you.

9 THE REPORTER: We are off the record.

10 (Deposition concluded at 4:50 p.m.)

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